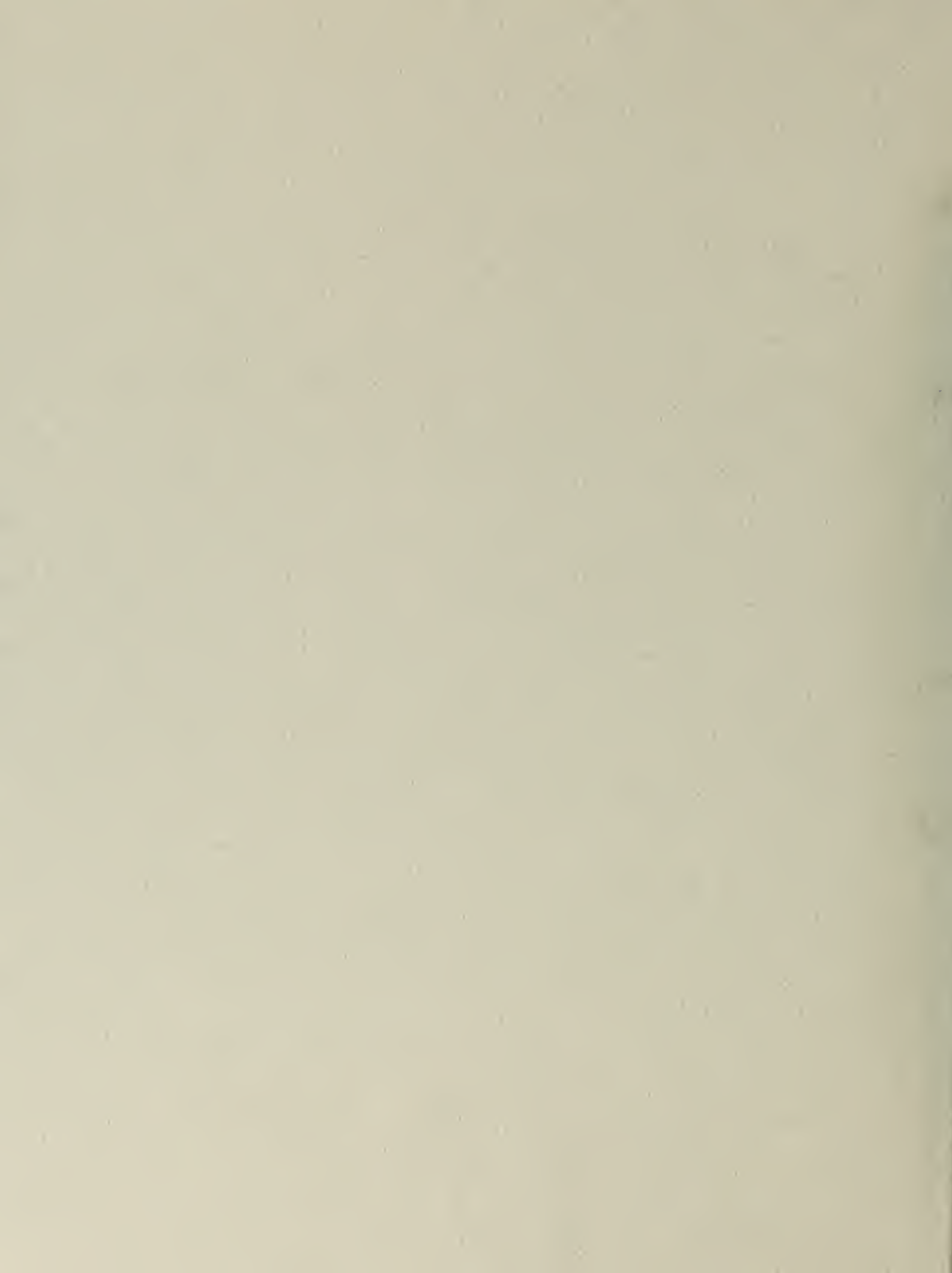





# Entre Nous

Between Us • 2006 • vol. 86 • Samford University







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# Entre Nous

Between Us ♦ Samford University

Between Us  
This is our yearbook.  
This is Entre Nous.

August 2005 - May 2006

800 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35229  
[www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu)

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volume 86

# Entre Nous

between us 2006

**Editor:** Ashley McCleery

**Art Director:** Sarah Dockrey

**Photo Editor:** Nick Holdbrooks

**Assistant Editor:** Emily Vernon

**Advisors:** Sean Flynt, Donovan Harris, Caroline Summers

**Section Editors:** Jessica Casto, Suzie Hornor, Courtney Keen, Jessica Lee, Chad Nichols

**Section Designers:** Abigail Banks, Rachel Cardina, Katie Horrell, Lindsay Plattner, Andrew Searles, Katherine Soop

**Editorial Contributors:** Britney Almaguer, Rachel Bennett, Kendra Buckles, Katie Bullock, Cacky Catlett, Hunter Denson, Laura Dozier, Rod Evans, Whitney Farmer, Brent Fielder, Lauren Gardner, Meredith Henry, Jena Hippensteel, Kim Hobbs, Kimberly Holland, Anna Holzman, Suzie Horner, Amberleigh Kirk, Katie Lantz, Murphy Maddox, Emily Mullins, Melissa Poole, Josh Rutledge, Meg Terry, Sara Beth Terry, Ann Shivers, Megan Voelkel, Maegan Wilson

**Photo Contributors:** Britney Almaguer, Ashley Doten, Candis Garner, Amy Graves, Dana Kaita, Claire Kimberly, Megan Marr, Sara Neyman

**Special Thanks:** Dr. Thomas E. Corts, Jay Elmore, Michael Morgan, Ann Wade Parrish, Philip Poole, The Samford Crimson, AP Worldwide, Bill Miller Photography, Zap Photography

The staff of Entre Nous seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. To us this means more than recounting events. We seek to capture the impressions the year left on students, faculty and administration by moving beyond the events themselves to the ways they affected and shaped us.

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability or national or ethnic origin.



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reveal



pledge



compete



connect



begin

# entre nous staff



Ashley McCleery  
Editor



Sarah Dockrey  
Art Director



Nick Holdbrooks  
Photo Editor



Emily Vernon  
Assistant Editor



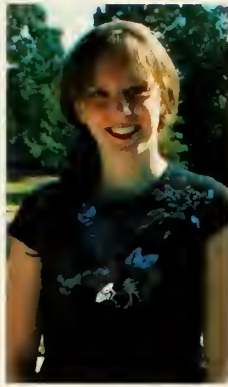
## section editors



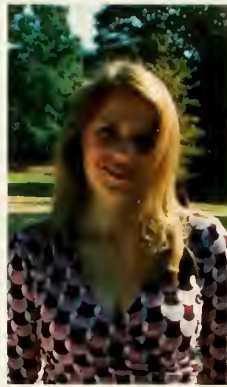
Jessica Casto



Suzie Horner



Courtney Keen



Jessica Lee



Chad Nichols

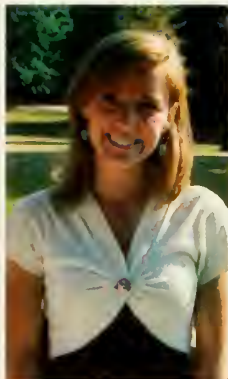
## section designers



Abigail Banks



Rachel Cardina



Katie Horrell



Lindsay Plattner



Andrew Searles

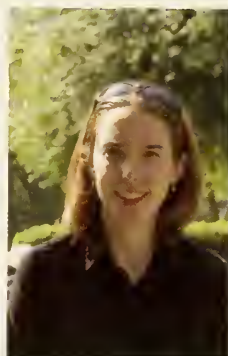


Katherine Soop

# contributors



Britney Almaguer



Katie Bullock



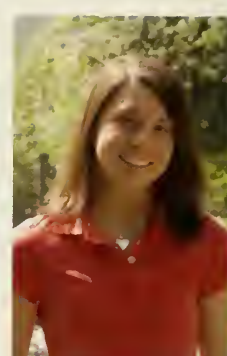
Hunter Denson



Rod Evans



Jena Hippensteel



Kim Hobbs



Kimberly Holland



Katie Lance



Emily Mullins



Melissa Poole



Josh Rutledge



Ann Shivers



Meg Terry



Sarah Beth Terry



Megan Voelkel



Maegan Wilson

**Not Pictured:** Rachel Bennett, Kendra Buckles, Cacky Catlett, Ashley Doten, Laura Dozier, Whitney Farmer, Brent Fielder, Lauren Gardner, Meredith Henry, Anna Holzman, Suzie Horner, Amberleigh Kirk, Murphy Maddox, Emily Mullins, Candis Garner, Amy Graves, Dana Kaita, Claire Kimberly, Megan Marr, Sara Neyman





# A Peek into Our Minds

## Editor

"A life recorded is twice precious, first the experience itself and then the memory of it full and sweet when we read it again later."  
Anonymous

Life is truly precious. It's hard to believe a year at Samford, a place we have come to know as home, has come and gone. Whether this year marked the beginning of your collegiate journey or the end, Samford has somehow touched us all.

I hope this yearbook captures your experiences. It's been a year filled with lazy days on the quad, weekend outings with friends, sporting events, infamous Step Sing faces.... and endless hours of studying. I hope you not only cherish this now but also in years to come. It's my desire that you take it off your bookshelf in 10 or 20 years and show your kids and grandkids and "remember when."

As for me, I've enjoyed collaborating and brainstorming with the staff to create this new journalistic yearbook. Switching to a hardback book and tripling its size, was a challenging feat, but I've learned far more than I have room to write.

"We do not remember days, we remember moments." Cesare Pavese

So pull up a chair, gather your friends, flip through these pages and reminisce.

God Bless,  
Ashley McCleery

## Art Director

As a graphic design major, I usually express myself through color, line and shape—not words. I'm thinking outside of the box by putting text on a page, and this year's Entre Nous has done the same.

Though this is my second year as the Art Director for Entre Nous, last Year's Entre Nous was nothing like this. Going from a 100 page magazine to a 250 page book proved to be a huge challenge, but it turned out to be a challenge worth taking on.

As a graduating senior, I'm realizing the importance of capturing memories for future reference, which is exactly what our team has done for each of you.

After 17 years of school and 22 years of life, I can honestly say that my years at Samford were some of the most exhilarating, challenging, awakening, precious and blessed years of my life. I've learned a lot about God through the people and experiences of Samford, and I'm thankful for each you whom I've met. You all have changed me.

So without further ado, after countless hours in the studio (or more affectionately, the dungeon), I give you our 2006 Entre Nous. I hope you'll enjoy it now, and continue to enjoy it decades from now.

For His Glory,  
Sarah Dockrey

## Photo Editor



I am holding what we started with, you are holding what we finished with.

Nick Holdbrooks



## Assistant Editor

As this year comes to a close, I realize I have many wonderful blessings to be thankful for. Working on this publication has helped me grow personally and professionally. It's been an adventure to say the least. Perhaps the most amazing thing about the whole experience is knowing that I wouldn't trade it for anything. I created memories and learned lessons that will stay with me forever.

Sarah and Nick-

Collaborating with you has been a pleasure.

Donovan, Caroline and Sean-

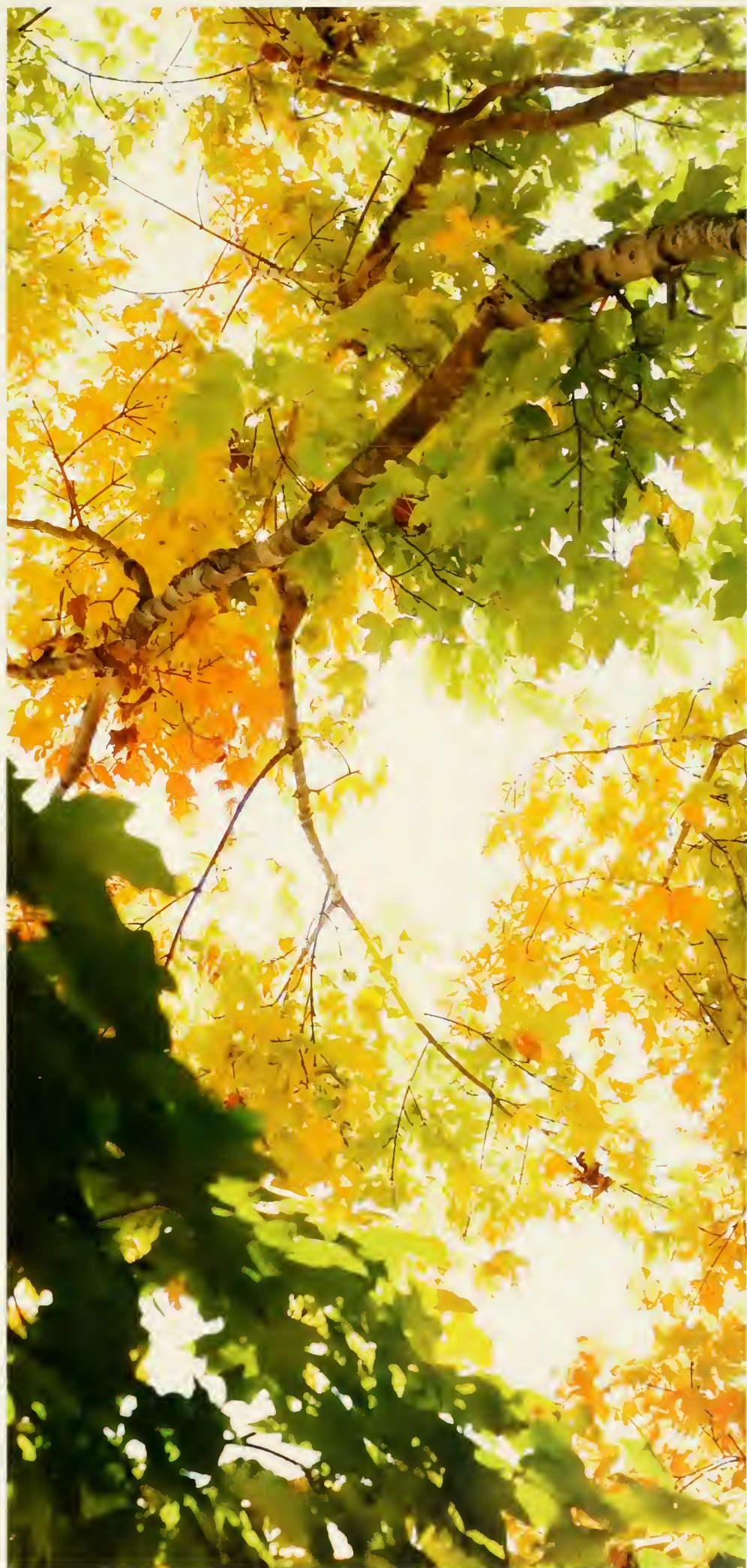
Thank you for your constant encouragement and helping all of us stay focused and motivated.

Ashley-

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. You kept pushing me and challenging me to be better. You have been a true blessing in my life. I appreciate it more than you know.

Lastly, I give thanks to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who has blessed me with the strength, talent and ability to take part in creating this book.

Emily Vernon









# Aspire

**as·pire** (-spr)

**as·pired, as·pir·ing, as·pires**

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The class of 2009  
gathers for their first  
photograph together during  
Connections.



# Experiencing the Samford Connection

by Meredith Yates

In the immediate aftermath of the first introduction to the roommate, the realization that a dorm room is 10 square feet and the tearful goodbye to the parents, freshmen began the infamous freshmen orientation, Connections. While some considered it the inevitable awkward rite of passage into Samford life, a large majority of students walked away from the experience feeling excited about the next four years, or maybe five.

Jennifer Dunn Hall, director of student activities and leadership education, described Connections as an introduction to "people, places and resources that will help make the transition to college smooth and successful." She also said, "The activities help students learn about Samford as well as discover their unique place within this community." This year's Connections schedule spread over four days and introduced students to their classmates, campus and the surrounding community.

The entering freshmen were divided into 40 small groups upon check-in. Each small group was led by a male and a female upperclassman who were prepared to turn their young protégés into Samford-loving fanatics. The freshmen returned to their small group six times within the four days to discuss issues relevant to campus life at Samford, such as Step Sing, the Caf, DTR's, Jan Term, the Pit and values violations.

Students had the opportunity to experience Guys' and Girls' Night Out with their Connections leader at some of the

city's most popular dining and nightlife venues. Some of the restaurants visited this year included Mellow Mushroom, Taziki's, Superior Grill, Jim 'n' Nicks and Wings.

Activities were scheduled every day to help students get to know one another and explore their new found freedom. The ultimately chaotic "Playfair" kicked off the festivities with an elderly ringmaster clad in spandex. Accompanied by upbeat music and surrounded by their enthused leaders, the freshmen scampered around the quad, danced back-to-back, screamed and laughed during the first evening. "I loved Playfair! Who knew that running around acting really stupid would be so much fun," freshman Stephanie Shoemaker said.

Other activities that provided the freshmen an opportunity to get to know one another were the Family Reunion on the Quad, residence hall meetings and the Freshmen Dance.

Another staple of the Connections schedule was the trip to the historic Alabama Theatre. With six dollars, freshman entered a renowned Southern theatre and received popcorn and a drink. This year's group

watched the romantic comedy "Hitch." Freshman Casey Cooper said she enjoyed the experience after the movie the most. "My favorite part of Connections was when my Connections leader got us lost after the movie for an hour. It was probably the best time ever and it was a great bonding experience."

Connections not only focused on the social aspects of campus, but it also

devoted time to the academic perspective. Connection leaders prepared students for the challenges of Communication Arts and Cultural Perspectives. Students even met college professors with their small group during lunch.

This year's special academic and cultural introduction to Birmingham featured Dr. Wayne Flynt, Samford alumnus and distinguished university professor at Auburn University and Dr. Jonathan Bass, Samford history professor. The two men spoke to freshmen at the Wright Center about the new city they were about to call home in a lecture entitled "Journey to Birmingham: Race, Community and Christianity in the Magic City."

A special Connections worship service was held on the final day of the orientation, providing encouragement to find their spiritual stability within the confines of Samford's community.

Although Connections provided students with helpful information about college, campus life and community, the part that students enjoyed most were the relationships that students built with the people they met. "I am really good friends with three people who were in my Connections group, and with my Connections leaders. They were all wonderful," freshmen English major Jessica Bonner said. ♦

**"The activities help students learn about Samford as well as discover their unique place within this community."**



# Welcome Back

By Anna Holzman

As students began to fill the dorms and unpack precious belongings, the sights and sounds of a quiet empty campus that occupied Samford during summer months were lost. The traditional greetings of friends old and new, buying books and running to Wal-Mart for last minute items were common occurrences as Samford University opened its doors for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Another tradition that takes place to kick off the new school year is a combination of events known as Welcome Back. Welcome Back allowed returning students to socialize with friends. For incoming freshmen, Welcome Back gave them the opportunity to get a feel for campus life and meet new people.

For the first night of Welcome Back, "Dinner on the Dirt" was the main event. Students lined up for food in the Caf and took it outside to sit on the quad and chow down. In addition to playing Frisbee and football, students enlightened their friends about the summer.

"It was a lot of fun to get back and see my friends after the summer," junior

sports medicine major Daniel Crane said. "[Dinner on the Dirt] is a great way to connect with people."

Sophomore Rachel Lamb said, "Welcome Back is without a doubt one of my favorite events here at Samford. It was so much fun to catch up with everyone and hear about their summers. I really missed everyone and it was so great to see their warm smiles again."

Monday night was supposed to be the night of the annual Welcome Back dance at Sloss Furnace. However, the dance was cancelled because of Hurricane Katrina. "I was really disappointed that Sloss got cancelled," junior sports medicine major Daniel Temple said.

Other students expressed the same frustration. "I was disappointed that the dance got cancelled because the freshmen dance, during Connections, was so much fun," freshman psychology major Christine Holland said. "I thought this would be even more fun because the whole school would be there."

**"It was so great to see their warm smiles again."**

"I was sad that so much got cancelled, because it's a great time to meet new people, as well as see your friends after the summer," junior business management major Brittany Barker said.

Despite a few setbacks because of the weather, the rest of the scheduled events continued. To conclude the Welcome Back events, many students attended the first football game of the year to cheer on

the Bulldogs. Before the game, students were offered free barbecue and T-shirts at the stadium. "I liked it," Barker said. "Not many people ever go to that, which is sad, but it's really fun. You get to sit out on the field, have free food and get free T-shirts."

The Bulldogs defeated Edward Waters, and then numerous students gathered on the tennis courts for a bluegrass concert. While Trotline played, many students danced to the hits from Lynard Skynard, Alabama and other music legends.

Melissa Poole, the Student Government Association vice-president, said, "Trotline





Far left: Troline belts "Sweet Home Alabama" as students mingle on the Quad.

Left: Jamie Daughtry and Amy Schell enjoy catching up at Dinner at the Dirt.

Below: Students continue to reunite with friends well after the sun goes down.

was a great band. A lot of Samford students related to them, and there was a great turnout. It ended up being one of the biggest student-organized concerts."

Crane expressed the same enthusiasm. "Troline was probably the most fun I've ever had at a concert at Samford," Crane said.

Overall, many students felt this year's Welcome Back was a success. Freshmen Amber Henry and Carlyn Harris said, "Welcome Back exemplifies Christian friends and fellowship and is an awesome way to get the entire school together to begin the new school year through exciting events."

According to freshman sports medicine major, Michael Wheeler, Welcome Back proved to be a successful event. "I had such a great time at the Welcome Back festivities, that I just can't wait until next year," Wheeler said. ♦



# Oh the Places You Will Live

by Lauren Gardner

Making the transition to college can be difficult, especially for students leaving home for the first time. However, if living conditions are agreeable, life can be influenced in a positive way. A dorm becomes a home away from home for many students.

Four sections of Sanford's campus were designated as residential areas including West campus, Central Campus, Beeson Woods and student apartments. Campus life experiences varied for students depending upon which part of campus they resided.

Sophomore Bryce Lokey is an international relations major who lived in Mountain View Hall on West Campus. He said the experience in his dorm was enjoyable, and it felt like home to him. He met his current roommate in Smith's recreation room last year playing ping pong. Lokey really enjoyed his experience in Smith dorm his freshman year. "People in Pittman miss out," Lokey said, "Smith is such a good freshman experience, and it is right next to Vail, which is also good."

Lokey thought Mountain View was a completely different experience due to his kitchen and lobby. Every two weeks the guys in the dorm held poker tournaments in the lobby, which allowed them to get to know each other better.

Lokey also said he liked being near the Greek houses because people were always

out and about on West Campus. Living in the Greek housing on West Campus proved to be beneficial for members of fraternities and sororities.

Sophomore nursing major Ren Higgins lived in the Chi Omega house. Higgins said having her own bathroom was a benefit, as opposed to the community bathrooms to which she was previously exposed in Vail. The visitation hours were also more frequent than those in Vail.

As a member of a sorority, it was more efficient for Higgins to live in the house because most of her activities originate in West Campus. Higgins also said the seclusion the Greek houses have from the rest of campus created a much better living environment. "The only downside is the long trek to class, but the positive side to that is that it is a good workout," Higgins said.

For some freshmen it was difficult to feel at home on a college campus, but Megan Christians, a freshman journalism and mass communications major, adjusted well to life in Vail. Christians went potluck when selecting a roommate and the experience proved to be a positive one. Not only did Christians get along with her roommate, but she also made great friends on her hall.

"Everyone has their doors open all the time, and we all get along really well," Christians said. All the girls on Christians' hall play flag football together. Even the







Left to right: Bryce Lokey; Lauren Higgins and Megan Christians show off their college homes.

Bottom of page: Student Apartments: home of Austin Walker.

RA played with the team. Residents of Christian's hall also ate dinner together every night in the Caf. Christians said Vail became her home away from home.

Changes were made to Central campus residence for the 2005-2006 school year. Pitman hall was previously an all male residence. Because of the number of females enrolled for the academic year, Pitman was turned into a dormitory consisting of female freshmen and transfer students.

Completely different living arrangements existed in Beeson Woods. Junior management major Clint Calvert lived in James, one of Beeson's dorms, for two years. He said it was a much better experience than living in Smith his freshman year. The bigger rooms, the common room and the more-accessible parking were three of the major benefits.

To Calvert, it was similar to living in an apartment. He has made friends with the guys in his dorm due to the dart tournaments, in which he tried to participate in at least once a day. He said it was easier to settle into Beeson because there was more privacy. "Beeson is probably the best place to live on campus, in my opinion," said Calvert.

Student apartments possessed a unique atmosphere compared to other areas of campus. Austin Walker, a sophomore

business major, lived in student apartments with two roommates.

He met his roommates in the training room the previous year because he ran track and his roommates played tennis.

Walker said the student apartments were a great option for students, but they are far

**"Everyone has their doors open all the time, and we all get along really well."**

away from everyone else on campus. There was also no real sense of community in the student apartments as well, and no one really knew anyone around them.

However, according to Walker, it really felt like an apartment and it was great to have a kitchen. He spent time with his friends in other dorms, but he also invited his friends to his apartment because it was large enough to accommodate a greater number of people.

Each of these students had different dorm life experiences, but the one common thread that tied them together was the memories made by living on campus. ♦





# Savoring the Weekends

by Anna Holzman

Just when you thought your hands couldn't type one more sentence and your eyes couldn't read one more word, the weekend came to your rescue.

Since Samford is located in the center of a thriving city, students had numerous opportunities this year to hang out at concerts, theatre productions, nightclubs, shopping centers and restaurants.

A major hangout for Samford students this year was Formaggio's, an Italian restaurant located in the heart of Birmingham. Formaggios is a 24 hour Italian restaurant with karaoke.

Junior English and Spanish major Amy Saxon said she went to Formaggio's often. "It's a lot of fun. It's loud, and there are a lot of people. No matter what time of night you go there, you can always find a crowd to hang out with."

**"It's a lot of fun. It's loud, and there are a lot of people. No matter what time of night, you can always find a crowd to hang out with."**

Occasionally, bands come to entertain the customers late into the night. Formaggio's also has a bar and an arcade computed into the small restaurant.

The Purple Onion was another Samford hot spot on the weekends. They serve Greek food in a very casual atmosphere. Purple Onion, or P.O., is also open 24 hours. Saxon said she went to Purple Onion a lot during her freshman year. "Purple Onion is a popular spot, especially among freshman," Saxon said. "There's nothing better than cheap Mediterranean food at 3 a.m."

Many Samford students said they also enjoyed going on road trips on the weekends. They traveled to various colleges as well as different sporting events and parties.

The college football season was a very popular time to make road trips, especially to Auburn University and the University of



Alabama. Students bought tickets to the games and went to parties or visited friends afterward.

Sophomore pre-business major Phillip Gewin went to five of the Crimson Tide's seven home games. "Alabama football is a way of life. I was raised on it, so I still enjoy going and watching them play," Gewin said.

Other students took their Samford friends to their hometowns and showed them a little piece of their life back home. Anna McCoy, a freshman elementary education major, went home with pre-business major Christine Todd to Destin, Florida. "It was such an exciting weekend for me because I've only experienced 'beach life' as a tourist and never as a resident. It was just an exciting weekend for me," McCoy said.

Concerts were also popular events for Samford students to attend. Students traveled to venues such as Workplay, Moonlight Music Café and the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex, otherwise known as the BJCC, for the latest concert or play.

Workplay is a venue that displays artists such as Michael Warren and Dave Barnes. Artists who perform at Workplay are usually those on their way to stardom, and they are well known by college students. Junior exercise science major Daniel Temple said he went to a lot of concerts at Workplay. "Workplay is one of my favorite places in Birmingham. It's a smaller



Far Left: A rock band playing at Workplay.

Left: The Purple Onion boasts in affordable food and 24 hour service.

Below: Formaggio's is a popular hot spot for students to eat, relax and sing karaoke.

atmosphere with a coffee house feel," he said. "It's a lot more up close and personal with the artists, and since most of the bands who play there aren't really big yet, they'll hang out with the crowd after the concert."


Moonlight Music Café was also a frequent stop for students on the weekend. Its unique atmosphere, smooth jazz and minimal talking create a soothing get-away.

Temple said he also hung out at the Café a lot, and he went to see Drew Holcombe play when he was featured in February. "Drew Holcombe is one of my favorite artists and the Moonlight Music café was the perfect place to see him," he said. "The ticket prices are reasonable and the atmosphere is great."

The BJCC is a much bigger venue and features better-known artists and theatre productions. The ticket prices are higher ranging, because artists like James Taylor and Dave Chappelle frequently visit the BJCC. Concerts provide entertainment for all ages and frequently for Samford students.

Junior biology major Lauren Wagner said, "Birmingham's a big city and there's always something fun to do on the weekend, no matter what it is." ♦





Vince Vaughn keeps the audience rolling with his comedic act at the Wright Center.



# Night of a Thousand Laughs

by Emily Mullins

Sept. 27, 2005. 8:15 p.m. "Where is he?" murmured impatient audience members. Country tunes filled the Wright Center, setting the mood for actor and comedian Vince Vaughn's "Wild West" comedy show.

8:19 p.m. "I wonder if Will Ferrell's going to be here or maybe Jennifer Aniston?" others questioned.

8:22 p.m. The lights dimmed and dramatic music played. After brief moments of heightened suspense, Vince Vaughn stepped into the spotlight as loud cheers erupted from the audience. Hundreds of cameras flashed as Vaughn greeted everyone attending the Alabama stop of his tour.

When presenting their tickets on Tuesday night, guests of the show could only expect the unexpected.

Rumors floated around Samford that Will Ferrell would be the surprise guest. "Some of my friends and I thought that Will Ferrell might be one of the guests since he was in Talladega shooting a new movie, so we were kind of bummed that he didn't show up. But the comedians were really funny, so we got over it," sophomore graphic design major Dana Kaita said.

Samford students as well as fans from surrounding areas packed the Wright Center to see the 17th show of the 30-day tour, proceeds of which went to the Hurricane Katrina relief fund. Vaughn acknowledged both hurricane victims and volunteers in the audience and declared his pride for our great nation in times of vulnerability.

"I thought the show in general was a great way for the Samford and Birmingham community to give to Hurricane Katrina

victims. It allowed students who don't really have the cash or the opportunity to get their hands dirty an easy way to provide for the victims, while at the same time having a release from classes and college life," sophomore psychology major Sunny Thomson said.

After the brief introduction, Vaughn welcomed longtime friend Ahmed to the stage for the first comedic act. As soon as he took the microphone, Ahmed's platform became his ethnicity and racial profiling he experienced throughout his life. This comedian of Middle Eastern heritage warmed up to audience members of all backgrounds by making fun of racial stereotypes.

Next, Vince Vaughn introduced comedian Sebastian Maniscalco, a short man wearing a fitted shirt and slacks. Maniscalco began by asserting the "wayside" of American male population, further challenging today's standards of male fashion.

However, Maniscalco did not exclude women from his comedic criticism. Chastising women for how tight they wear their pants, Maniscalco said, "I can see your colon."

A young man named John Caparulo took the stage next in baggy jeans, an oversized T-shirt and a backward baseball cap. Caparulo poked fun of his trip to rural Missouri and joked about several failed relationships.

For the last act, Bret Ernst and Caparulo represented the youth and wit of America. He described the humor, coupled with the stupidity, of American 20-somethings going out on the town in celebration of

their prime time. Ernst also impersonated techno music into the microphone, and described his fond memories of roller-skating in junior high with crazy antics on stage. Vaughn fans were a little upset he did not perform a stand-up act of his own. "Even though I was a little disappointed that Vince himself didn't do a routine, the guests that did speak were hilarious. I laughed so hard my cheeks hurt," Thomson said.

Vaughn did, however, hit the stage with guest star Peter Billingsley, the childhood actor in the film "A Christmas Story," to act out a scene from "The After-School Special" in which they started together as teenagers. Actor Keir O'Donnell also made a guest appearance as a plug for Vaughn's 2005 box-office hit "Wedding Crashers." In the movie, O'Donnell plays Vaughn's admirer.

"Having Vince Vaughn come to Samford was without a doubt one of the most amazing experiences I've had at Samford," sophomore journalism major Rob Collingsworth said. "I was a little surprised to hear that he was coming to a school like Samford, but I really am glad he did. I got to shake his hand afterwards, and it was probably the highlight of my life." ♦

# Homecoming

## Generations Glory in the Red and Blue

by Meg Terry

As students arrived back on campus after Fall Break, excitement and anticipation of the Homecoming events filled the crisp, autumnal air.

The extensive planning of Homecoming Chairmen senior history major Mattea Crow and junior business major Blake Eckert promised a week full of tradition, entertainment and celebration for every generation.

The festivities started Thursday night as students "cruised in" to enjoy watching the big screen under the stars. Silence of the Lambs was the movie du jour. Students and alumni gathered around the annual bonfire on Friday evening to reminisce on past homecoming memories.

As the marching band played the fight song, an array of fireworks illuminated the black October sky. The night concluded with the first concert ever to be held in Ben Brown Plaza. The band, Kyote Wylde, took the stage and deemed to prove themselves as highly qualified entertainers. "I was planning to just stop by the concert, but once I got there I didn't want to leave," freshman nursing major Kellie O'Connell said. "The music and atmosphere were amazing. I had a great time."

Throughout the weeks before Homecoming, fraternities, sororities and other organizations on campus worked on their parade floats. Zeta Tau Alpha's Christina Elliott, a junior accounting major, said, "A lot of time and effort went into making the float, but it gave us an opportunity to get away from the regular school week and spend more time with each other. We were so proud to walk next to our float during the parade and show our spirit for Samford's football team."

With finishing touches made on the floats and the Court Representatives positioned in their designated convertibles, the parade began Saturday morning with Grand Marshals Dr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Corts and their grandchildren leading the procession in a horse-drawn carriage.

Spirit from the cheerleaders, dance team and marching band consumed the parade route as it made its loop around Sherman Circle for onlookers lining the street. The float judges named Zeta's float worthy of the first place trophy and a cash prize for their philanthropy. Phi Mu and Alpha Delta Pi ranked second and third, respectively.

Following the parade, tailgating and hot-air balloon rides on the quad gave alumni, students and future Bulldogs the chance for the generations to mix and mingle. Then fans, young and old, packed the stands for the homecoming game versus the Tigers of Tennessee State University.

Junior running back Justin Ray said, "Homecoming is that game everyone will remember. The fans are extremely excited and vibrant, and it's usually the one game when all the players' families come to see their sons play. It's really just a great environment."

Ray said he realized the importance of homecoming events, but that for the football players, the game comes first. "It is very important when playing at homecoming that you don't get caught up in all the distractions and forget that you have to take care of business on the field first."

The Bulldogs wasted no time as they proceeded into the locker room with a 21-3 lead at half time. During half time, the 2005 Homecoming Court took the field.



The announcer revealed Emily Morris and Jacob Simmons as the Homecoming Queen and King. Dr. Corts crowned the two beaming seniors with the coveted award.

Sports Medicine major Morris said, "When presented at half time, I found myself not only excited but also reflective. Looking over the crowd reminded me that my days here are coming to an end. I have been so blessed by the relationships I have made here at Samford. It was so humbling to be honored with this award. Above all, I desire for God to be glorified through it."

Alongside the Homecoming Queen, senior business management major Simmons grinned from ear to ear as Samford's president put the medal around his neck.

"I think it was more enjoyable being selected as a senior because that means that your class has known you for four years now





Left: The Samford Bulldogs begin a new play against the Tennessee State Tigers that led them to victory.

Directly below: Zeta's Homecoming float was awarded first place after the parade Saturday morning.

Below: Flames ignite students' spirits at the bonfire on Friday night.



and they still somehow think you are worthy of being selected," Simmons said.

After the crowning, the Bulldogs came back on the field and clinched the victory with a 31-11 win over Tennessee State.

Saturday's festivities concluded with two performances by world-renowned comedian Bill Cosby at the Wright Center and a dessert reception following at Harry's.

To bring the week of homecoming commemorations to a close, Student Ministries Choir held a Samford Family Worship Service in Hodges Chapel. The service allowed all generations to come together for worship led by both students and alumni.

As Homecoming 2005 drew to a close, the alma mater came true as the past, present and future of the university "pledged their hearts and minds to the Samford Red and Blue." ♦







# Homecoming Court

by Anna Holzman

The 2005 Homecoming Court consisted of six underclassmen and six seniors. Each student elected for the court was voted on by his or her classmates. The court was presented during halftime of the homecoming game against Tennessee State.

**"I was so excited to be included on the court with AnnClaire and Olivia."**

The underclassmen on the court were freshmen Lauren Leigh Smith and Paul Anderson, sophomores Stephanie Elliot and Bobby Smith and juniors Suzie Hornor and Chad Robison.

The seniors on this year's homecoming court included journalism major AnnClaire Vaughn, sports medicine major Emily Morris and communications studies major Olivia Keaggy. Their escorts were sports medicine major Brandon Foltz, management major Brian Cook and management major Jacob Simmons.

This year, Emily Morris and Jacob Simmons were named the 2005 Homecoming Queen and Escort. "I was so excited to be included on the court with Ann-Claire and Olivia. I have admired both of those girls throughout my college experience," Morris said. "Just to stand with them, as well as with Jacob Brandon, and Brian, was honor enough. On top of that, both sets of my grandparents had already planned to be here Friday night for the senior soccer celebration. It was so special to experience Homecoming with all of my family." ♦







Left: Homecoming Queen and King Emily Morris and Jacob Simmons

Top row: Olivia Keaggy and Brian Cook; Ann Claire Vaughn and Brandon Foltz

Bottom row: Lauren Leigh Smith and Paul Anderson; Stephanie Elliot and Bobby Smith; Suzie Hornor and Chad Robison



Bill Cosby enthralls the audience at the Wright Center with his quick wit and entertaining stories.



# Bill Cosby



# The Family Man

by Lauren Gardner

As he relaxed in a recliner sporting a Samford sweatshirt and joking about life's silly antics, many students said they felt they knew this man. After all, they watched him play television's most beloved dad for almost a decade on *The Cosby Show*. However, during Homecoming weekend, Samford students had the opportunity to watch Bill Cosby as a comedian at the Wright Center.

Cosby's fame peaked during the 1984-1992 run of *The Cosby Show*, which many Samford students grew up watching. He has experienced success in television, writing, movies, production and social issues. His humor and class have made him an entertainer who has stood the test of time.

Christin Bates, a sophomore communication studies major, said the show was really fun. She watched *The Cosby Show* when she was younger and said it was great to see him in person. She enjoyed his stories about his wife and family because they were pertinent to life. "I could identify with everything he said about family," Bates said.

She especially identified with the stories about Cosby's relationship with his brothers. "I have two younger brothers, and it is just like Mr. Cosby said, the baby always screams and still gets his way," Bates said.

Bates said it was good that Samford had an icon such as Cosby to perform. She thought it brought people from the community as well as students, because he is so renowned. "This show could reach everybody, not just students," Bates said.

Senior English major James King said he also enjoyed the show. "I was excited that Samford got someone with such

a reputation," King said. Mainly, King appreciated the way Cosby incorporated the audience in his jokes by inviting five Samford football players as well as Senior Suzanne Mattox onto the stage.

Although he used the football players for his act, he asked Mattox onto the stage because he noticed her interpreters since she's hearing impaired. "I never expected to go up there with Bill Cosby," Mattox said. "When he asked me to walk up to him, I was shaking and speechless because I was going to meet my all-time favorite comedian-actor. He was completely sweet and caring when he held my hands and kissed me on the cheek. It has been one of my best memories. I can't wait to tell this story to my future children or grandchildren."

King also said the show flowed well because Cosby delivered jokes in the form of stories, and it was engrossing.

"For such a long show, it had a good pace. The stories kept a smile on your face as opposed to punch lines," King said. Cosby came across as grandfatherly, which is what King expected. "The stories he told were so accessible to everyone and were interesting to all ages," King said.

Kathryn Lamb, a junior political science and Spanish major, said she was really excited when she found out Cosby was doing the show for homecoming because she also watched *The Cosby Show* when she was younger. Lamb said the parts she liked

**"The stories he told were so accessible to everyone and were interesting to all ages."**

the most in the show were the jokes and stories from his old performances. "I think he was a good person to bring because he is so well-known," Lamb said. "Most of us grew up watching *The Cosby Show*."

Jeremy Brannan, a senior biology and Spanish major, said it was great to have Bill Cosby come to Samford because he is one of the biggest names this school has ever had.

At first Brannan was worried Cosby's jokes would not be as good as in his younger years, but later realized he was wrong. Brannan said he was even better because he was like a grandfather figure and used his age to make great jokes. "I was cracking up the whole time," Brannan said. His favorite jokes were the ones about dentists, because he is pre-dental. "The jokes about dentists were hilarious. I had tears on my cheeks," said Brannan.

Expectations were met the night Bill Cosby came to Samford's campus. His stories and jokes were timeless and transcended all ages and races. As one of America's icons, he left Samford University with something to remember—there is always room for laughter in life. ♦

# Crowning Glory: Miss Samford University 2006

By Emily Mullins

Lights... camera... action! Well, minus the camera. Plenty of lights and action filled the Wright Center on November 4 at the only official Miss America preliminary that is entirely student-led, the Miss Samford University pageant. Students, parents and faculty alike came to witness the crowning of Miss Samford 2006, senior Melissa Toole.

Audience member Allyson Dewell, a freshman nursing major, said, "It was a great way to get to see a group of diverse girls strut their stuff. Overall, it was a fun event that allowed each contestant to share some part of their life passion."

To kick off the night, enthusiastic emcees Alexa Jones, the reigning Miss Alabama 2005, and senior sports medicine major Brandon Foltz took the stage. They introduced the nine contestants, all of different ages and concentrations of study, who performed a choreographed dance routine to the song "Singing in the Rain" in

keeping with this year's "Reign" theme.

After a video that followed the painstaking practice put forth by each contestant in the weeks preceding the pageant, the participants performed a dance with their escorts to "It's Raining Men." Eight of the escorts represented male students at Samford, and one was a Samford alumnus.

Reigning Miss Samford University 2005 Melissa Morgan played the piano, contestants competed in the casual wear portion of the pageant, which accounted for 10 percent of the total score. Then the contestants came on stage in their swimsuit attire, which compromised another 10 percent of the score.

After Jones performed a song, she then opened the floor for each contestant to showcase her talent, a competition worth 35 percent of the total score. Talents differed, ranging from Toole's vocal performance

of "Vienna" to Liz Cesler's lyrical dance to "Listen to Your Heart" and Jessica Terry's talent at the piano, for which she captured the talent award.

The evening wear competition, counting for 15 percent of the total score, directly preceded the on-stage interview competition, which comprised five percent of the total score.

Morgan was given the responsibility of creating the interview questions before the pageant. The contestants, however, had no prior knowledge of the specific content of the questions, which concerned political topics and recent national events. Each participant pulled a question from the bowl, and each was judged based on her composure, clarity of speech and ability to immediately express a thought when prompted.

"The interview component was the most challenging aspect of the judging process







because you had 10 minutes to reveal, in a nut shell, who you are," Toole said. "Not only does the contestant have a short amount of time to convey who she is, but she also has a panel of five judges who mostly likely have different opinions about the issues concerning our society."

As the night drew to a close, the Samford dance team performed to "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" while the judges tabulated the scores. Morgan then walked for the last time as Miss Samford.

After presenting awards and giving recognition to the students and committees behind the pageant, such as sophomore co-directors Callie Aldridge and Lauren Welty, it was time to announce Miss Samford University 2006.

Several moments of heightened suspense passed as awards such as Best Talent were given. Finally, the emcees read off the winners in the following order: second runner-up, Miss Katie Robertson; first runner-up, Miss Charissa Cowart; and the much-anticipated winner, Miss Melinda Toole.

Cheers erupted from the audience as Morgan placed a shining crown on Toole's head. Having competed in 25 preliminaries prior to this year's Miss Samford pageant, Toole was no stranger to the stage, but being crowned to represent her school was certainly a first for her.

Also selected as the pageant's Miss Congeniality, Toole took her inaugural walk as Miss Samford 2006 just before the curtain dropped.

Rest assured that the curtain has not fallen on her experience. Her crowning was merely the beginning of her service as she had an entire year to promote her platform of character education in the community.

Above all, Toole enjoyed her experience with the girls in the competition. "I really enjoyed having the chance to fellowship with the other contestants. As a senior in college, it can be very hard to find the time to sit down and get to know someone. I really valued the time I had to spend with the other contestants. They are all remarkable women," Toole said.

Sophomore nursing major Elizabeth Broome agreed that Miss Samford was a positive experience. "I have participated in this for the past two years and each time has been an enjoyable experience," Broome said. "It is a great opportunity to gain confidence, give to the community and perfect a talent."

Reflecting back on the pageant, junior psychology major Jessica Dutton said, "I enjoyed the people I met and the challenge of something new. Beauty pageants are not as simple as they look. The biggest thing is to remember to have fun with it." ♦



Left: Miss Samford University 2006 Melinda Toole takes her inaugural walk down the runway.

Directly above: Melissa Morgan crowns Melinda Toole the new Miss Samford University.

Above: Contestants dance with their escorts in the opening number.



Photo Credit: Sarah Dockrey, Ashley McCleery Page Design: Katherine Soop

# It's Your Night...

# The Beeson Ball

By Jessi Lee

Loud music, candlelight and students dressed in formal gowns and tuxedos were the sights and sounds that filled the Harbert Center in downtown Birmingham, on Saturday, November 12, 2005. Beeson Ball proved to be a big event for the fall semester.

Beeson Ball is a formal sponsored by the resident assistants in Beeson Woods and aimed directly at the residents of Beeson. However, something many Samford students don't know is that everyone enrolled at Samford is invited. "It was open to everyone, even Central Campus," senior exercise science major Katherine Manget said. "But it was only advertised in Beeson." Manget is a senior resident assistant for Samford.

This is the second year the resident assistants put on the Beeson Ball. "I went last year, and it was a lot of fun," junior pharmacy major Sarah Kate Jennings said. Jennings is a resident assistant in Lucille Hall. Jennings said the purpose of the Beeson Ball is "to have something for the

Beeson Woods residents to be involved in, since most of us are independent."

Manget didn't go last year because she was a resident assistant in Central Campus. "This year, I was required to go, but I would've gone anyway," she said.

Junior political science major Rod Evans said, "I wasn't going to go because I was in The Mikado, but it worked out, and I'm glad I went." Evans, who lives in James Hall, said this was his first year to attend the Ball. "I heard they had a good time last year," he said. "I did have fun."

Sophomore graphic design major Bob Miller was invited by Lucille Hall resident sophomore sports medicine major Emily Whitworth. Miller, who lives in Mountainview, said the Ball took the place of fraternity and sorority parties for the independents at Samford. "There are a lot of fraternity and sorority parties," Miller said. "Beeson is a lot less social, so it's good to get to go to something like this."

Many students said the Ball was a great opportunity to socialize. "It was good





Far left: Suite Ivan and their dates meet outside Ethel before a night of dining and dancing.

Left: Beeson Wood couples sway to the beat at the Harbert Center.

Below: Christy O'Neill and Susannah Mayhall pose for a quick shot as they take a break from the dance floor.

because in Beeson, you know a lot of people, but you never get to see them," Evans said. "You can come together and have a good time. It's good, clean fun." Miller agreed, "It's a good way to hang out with people you don't get to see a lot."

**"It's a good way to hang out with people you don't get to see a lot."**

Many students attended the Ball this year. "There was quite a turnout, and I was impressed," junior computer science major Daniel Mills said. Miller also said the turnout was high. "There were more people there than I thought there would be," he said. "Things are always more fun with a lot of people."

According to Manget and Jennings, the Ball is a lot of fun, especially for girls. "It's a good excuse to get dressed up and go out," Manget said. Jennings said she agreed. "I like to get dressed up, and I like to dance," she said. "It was almost like prom. You signed in at the door, there were tables set

up, there were refreshments, and there was a big dance floor." However, the girls weren't the only ones who had fun. "It was a typical ball and party," Miller said. "It was definitely fun."

Many students who attended the Ball said they suggest others to attend

next year. "I definitely encourage students to go," Jennings said. "It's a good chance to get your groove on." Manget said there are many different reasons students should go. "It's free and you get to go downtown," she said. "Students should definitely go." Evans said, "I would really encourage it. It's a good group of people."

Mills pointed out the theme this year and said it holds truth. "It's your night." ♦



# Lighting of the Way: illuminating the truth

by Emily Mullins

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:8-14, NIV)

Samford students braving the chilly night air on Nov. 29 listened to a similar reading of the biblical account of Christ's birth.

Lighting of the Way, a spiritual celebration marking the beginning of the Christmas season at Samford, took place on the steps leading up to the University Library.

Before festivities began, class officers set up tables and distributed various "Lighting of the Way" memorabilia.

Sophomore business major Paul McNeese said, "Lighting of the Way was a great experience. As a class officer, it was a great way for me to get out and serve our class and the student body as a whole. As a student, it was even better to get out and see one of Samford's more meaningful functions."

At the official start of Lighting of the Way, speakers, both students and faculty alike, approached the microphone to comment on the joy of the season. Then the Student Ministries Choir sang Christmas carols, inviting everyone in attendance to sing along. They encouraged participation by

passing out sheets with the lyrics to the carols being sung.

Sophomore nursing major Jessica Johnson said, "Lighting of the Way is a heart-warming Samford tradition. I miss not being home to put up the Christmas lights, but Samford gives its students the opportunity to experience plugging in the lights at their home away from home. Besides the beautiful lights, I loved the sweet singing of Christmas carols reminding me of how blessed I am to freely celebrate our Savior's birth at my school."

After filling the quad with sweet holiday melodies, everyone was invited to witness the climax of the evening: the lighting of the Christmas tree at the center of Samford's campus.

Boxed lights were placed along the perimeter of the sidewalks, but each of them paled in comparison to the lights strung on the elegant evergreen.

Many rushed to get their pictures taken with their friends in front of the tree. Even someone dressed in a Santa Claus ensemble made an appearance in order to entertain the children and adults present.

Freshman exercise science major Johanna Brandon said, "It was a little hard for me to get into the Christmas spirit this year since, as a freshman, this was the first time I missed all of the pre-Christmas activities at home. Lighting of the Way was great, though, because I realized not only would I have traditions to go home to, but I would also be a part of Samford traditions."

At the conclusion of the outdoor events of the evening, many made the short trek to Reid Chapel for the Hanging of the Green. Director of Christian Women Leadership Center Carol Ann Vaughn officiated most of the service, imploring Samford affiliates to be the light in a dark world.



Vaughn cited Matthew 5:14-16, which states, "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Symbolic gestures, such as the lighting of candles, were made to accompany the message, and additional Scriptural readings were shared.

Summing up the uniqueness of the Lighting of the Way tradition, junior nursing major Claire Woods said, "While certain things at the Lighting of the Way do vary each year – different speakers, different choirs, and a different crowd – what I have enjoyed most about it over the past three years is that at its heart it remains very much the same. It is one of the many traditions that I think helps make Samford the close community that it is." ♦

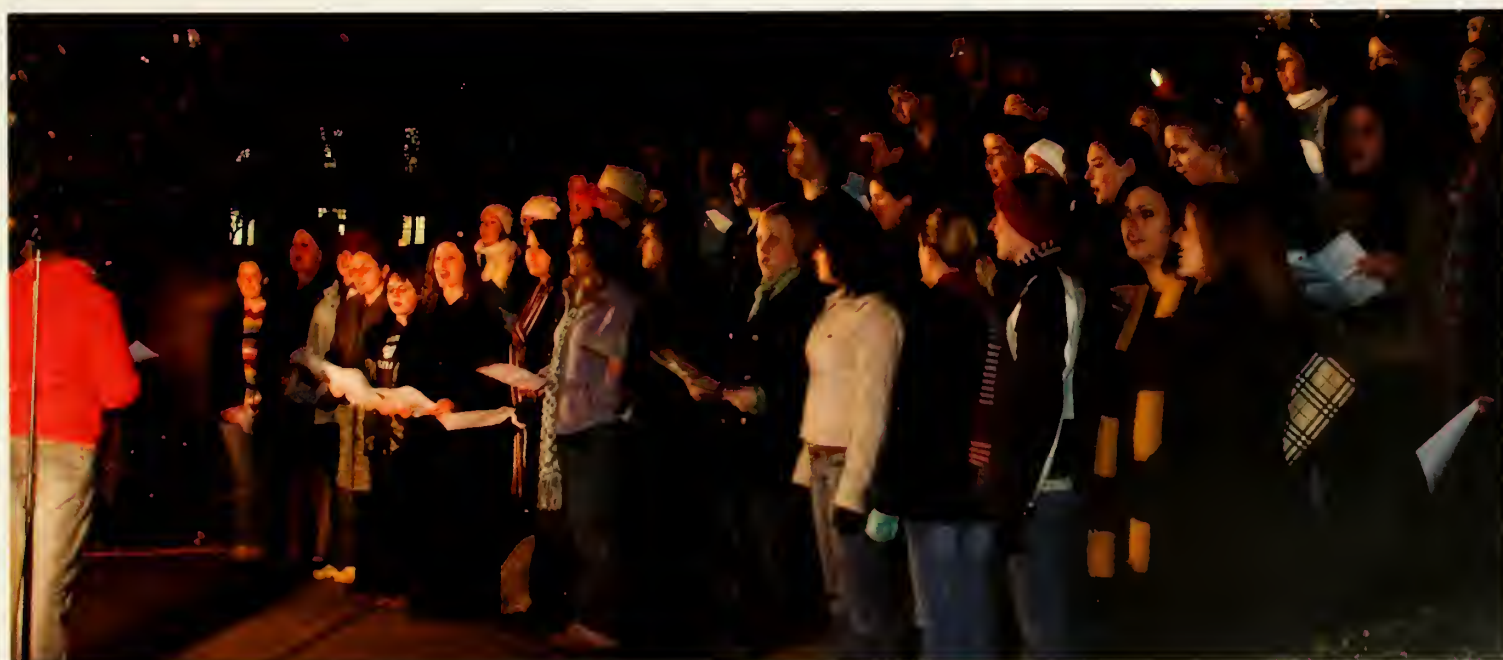




Left: Paper lanterns line the sidewalks leading students to the ceremony.

Directly below: The traditional Christmas tree in the middle of the quad.

Below: Student Ministries Choir leads the students in song with Christmas carols.



# Step Sing 2006 Life Unscripted

by Sara Beth Terry

Between the first step taken in rehearsal and the last note sung at the final performance, the weeks were crazed by Step Sing fever.

Throughout the month of February, nicknamed by students "Step Sing-uary", the campus was filled with the buzz that comes along with Step Sing secrets, unity and livelihood.

The traditional banner drop gave a little foretaste of what the next few weeks were going to hold. Displayed in the Caf, the banners were conversation pieces as students talked about the much-anticipated show, with the 2006 theme of "Unscripted."

**"Winning Sweepstakes was an irreplaceable culmination of joy and relief."**

With their interpretation of their theme, "The Blue Brothers," Alpha Omicron Pi won the banner contest.

Although fairly young to direct an entire show, Alpha Omicron Pi sophomore, Kristan Burson said she was honored to accept the challenge. "When you get the show finished and you realize how well it all came together, there is a big sense of pride that just comes over you. You begin to realize that everything you have gone through the past few months has all been worth it; especially when you have all of your girls really excited to perform and represent the sorority and each other," she said.

The emcee trio of junior D.J. Carter, senior Kristen Williams and senior Kris Wood brought extra laughs to the stage as they briefed each show. "I thoroughly enjoyed having another perspective on the show being an emcee this year," Carter said. "I loved knowing secrets about the other shows and it was neat to be neutral. The excitement and energy of each group is truly awesome. Step Sing gives you a high that you can't describe."



Senior Charissa Cowart directed this year's Saturday Night Live-themed Phi Mu show. "I really feel like this year's Step Sing show as a whole was one of the best since I've been at Samford. Our overall committee was wonderful, and for Phi Mu personally, we all had a blast performing. Our goal this year was to be laid back, fun and have a crowd-pleasing show. I feel like we accomplished that," Cowart said.

Competing against 12 other groups, Independent Ladies took the coveted Sweepstakes trophy with their theme of "We Stick Together: A Story of Shadows," as well as the Excellence in Choreography and Excellence in Music awards.

For the last three years, Independent Ladies have placed in the top three shows but have never taken home the Sweepstakes Trophy. This year, directors Drew Pournelle and Eden Richardson finally witnessed their hard work pay off. "I'm so happy for this team. We put a lot of work into this, and even though second place wasn't necessarily bad the past two years, it feels great to finally be the best," Pournelle said.





Left: Independent Ladies director Eden Richardson celebrates with the rest of the team as she holds the Sweepstakes trophy.

Below: Dudes-A-Plenty director Jacob Simmons sings "If I only had a heart."

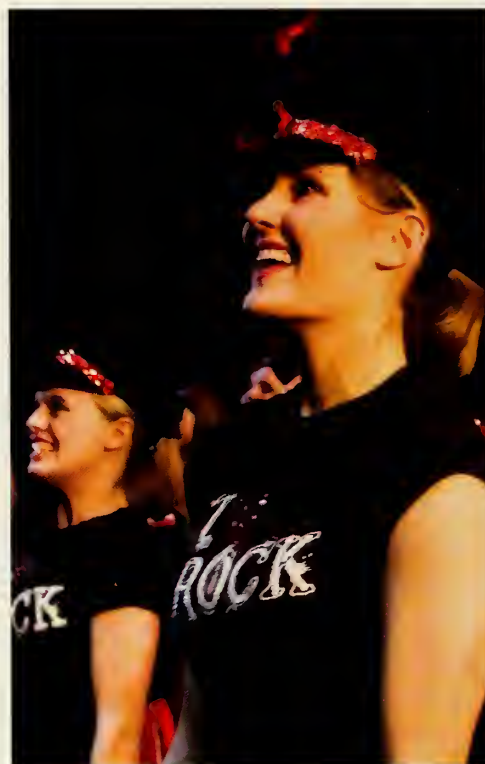
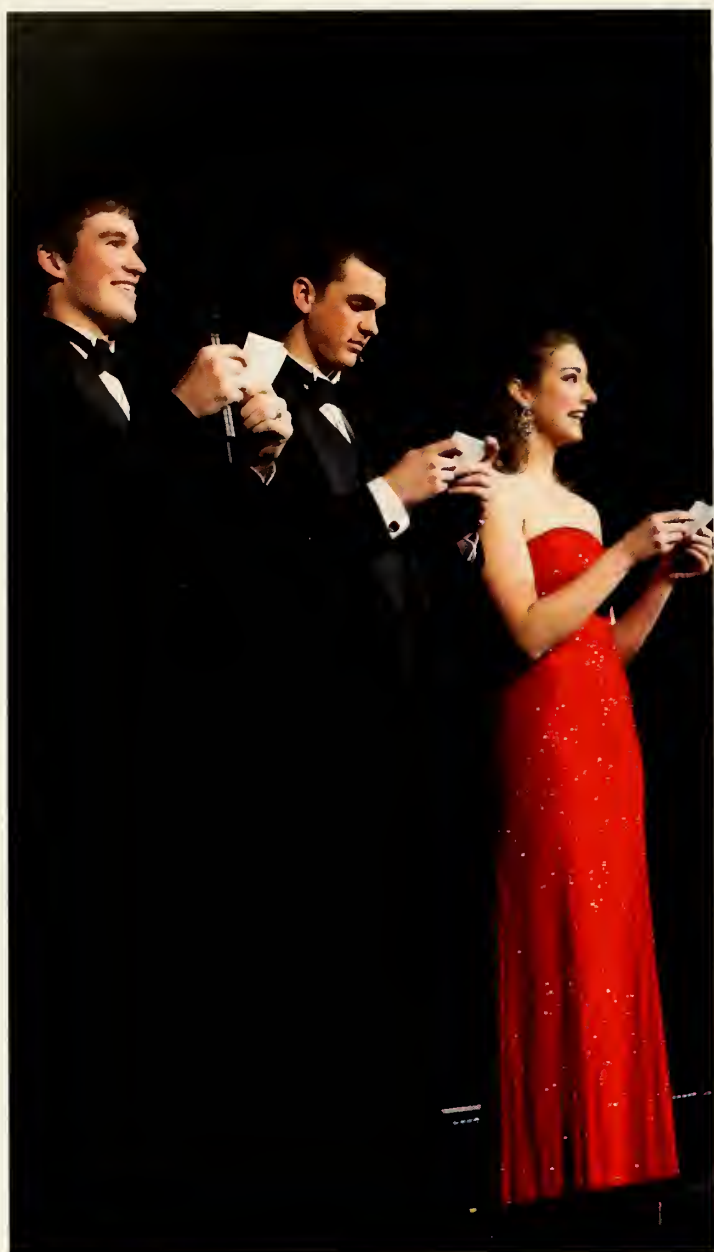
Junior Independent Ladies member Lydia Foxworth agreed. "Performing in Step Sing was so rewarding, to see all our hard work pay off. During the show there were so many self-conscious thoughts like, 'Are we good enough?' 'They could probably win' and 'What does everyone think about our show?' And then winning Sweepstakes was an irreplaceable culmination of joy and relief."

Behind those step sing smiles, costumes and props was a committee headed by senior religion major Mike Motta dedicated to making Step Sing arrive without a hitch.

"It's such a bittersweet feeling now the show is finished," Motta said. "It was exciting to see everyone's hard work finally come together into one big production. But it's also sad because it's over. I thought the show was great. Everyone did such a good job, and I could not have been privileged to direct a better year." ♦







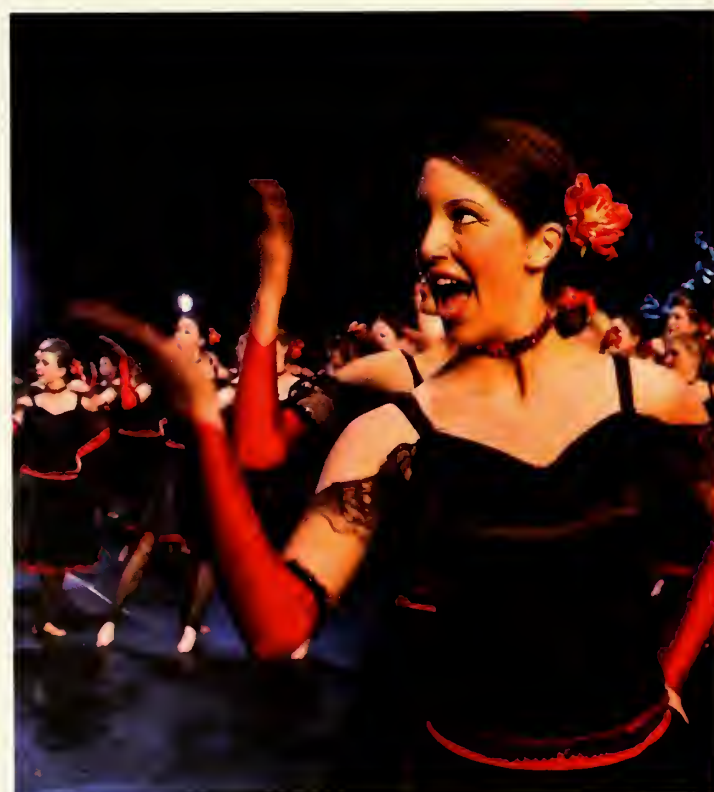
Far Left: Emcees D.J. Carter, Kris Wood and Kristen Williams announce the winners.

Left: Phi Mus parody Ashlee Simpson in their show about Saturday Night Live.

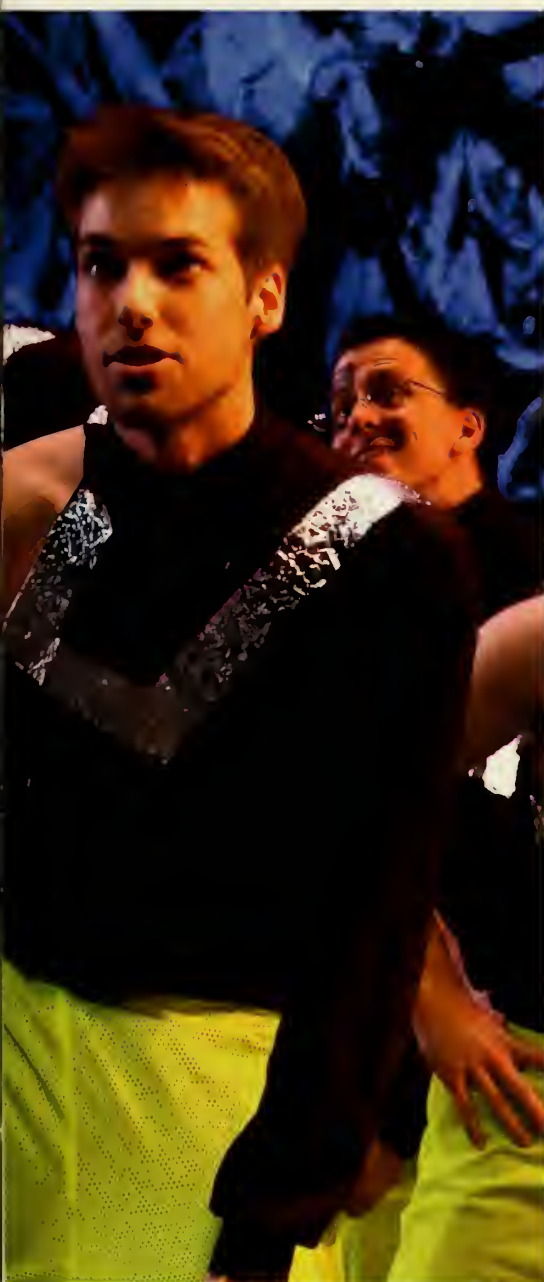
Below Left: Zeta shows the audience how they spice up their life.

Directly Below: Dudes-A-Plenty members imitate robots.

Right: Independent Ladies split into two groups showing the division between them and their shadows.







# Winners:

## **Sweepstakes:**

"We Stick Together- A Story of Shadows"  
Independent Ladies

## **First runner up:**

"The Man and the Machine"  
Dudes-A-Plenty

## **Second runner up:**

"Spice Up Your Life"  
Zeta Tau Alpha

## **Excellence in Theme:**

Dudes-A-Plenty

## **Excellence in Choreography:**

Independent Ladies

## **Excellence in Music:**

Independent Ladies

## **Participants' choice awards:**

Best Music - Sigma Chi

Best Choreography - Zeta Tau Alpha

Best Costume - Phi Mu

Best Overall - Pi Kappa Phi

Community service award - Student Ministries





Alphas and Friends



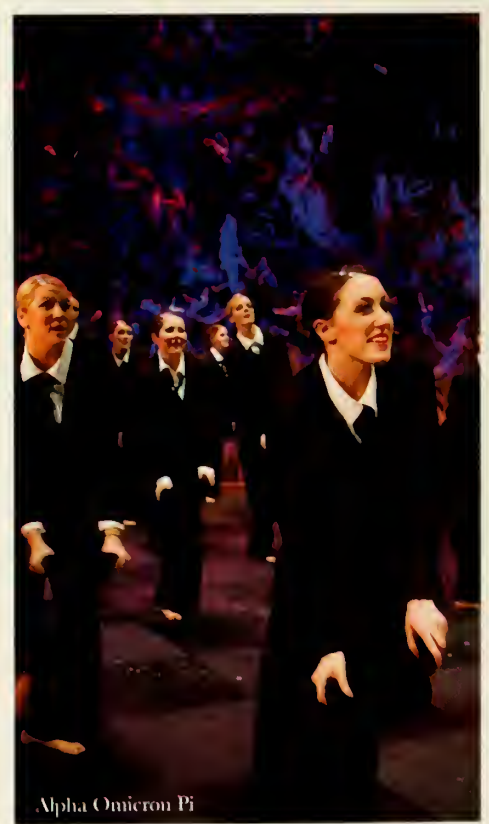
Zeta Tau Alpha



Lambda Chi Alpha

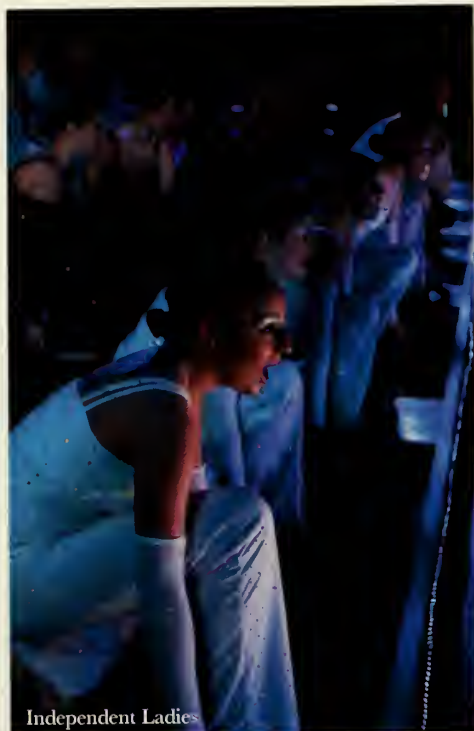


Phi Mu



Alpha Omicron Pi





Independent Ladies



Alpha Delta Pi



Chi Omega



Student Ministries



Pi Kappa Phi



Sigma Chi



# Fling into Spring

by Meg Terry

Sounds of musical talent rocked the Sanford campus throughout the weekend of Spring Fling and rolled out entertainment opportunities galore.

The Student Activities Council, a branch of SGA, planned a three-day musical festival referred to as "Samford Stages." Junior religion major Ryan McCormick and freshman history major Bennett Sumner led the committee as co-chairs for the weekend of music that was held April 19-22.

"I thought Spring Fling was great this year. We had a big turnout at all the events."

"I thought Spring Fling was great this year," Bennett said. "We had a big turnout at all the events. Ryan and I

tried to do a lot of new things, and people really enjoyed it."

The weekend kicked-off Thursday night with a feast-and-music event called "Blues and BBQ," relocated from Ben Brown Plaza to the Caf due to inclement weather. Blues artist Willie King performed in the Caf as students enjoyed the southern fixins' of barbeque chicken, sweet tea and bread pudding. Willie livened up the crowd despite the poor weather conditions, as he left the stage several times to sing and play the guitar among the different tables.

Junior geography major Kyle Sims said, "I thought Willie King and his band were really great to listen to. His passion for music made him really entertaining."

Prior to opening the doors for the Friday night concert, an overwhelming amount of people waited to get into the gym. An estimated 400 students came to hear Dave Barnes perform a free concert in Seibert Gym.

After singing a few songs, Micah Dalton, an up and coming artist, introduced Barnes and the crowd greeted him with energy. Opening his performance with the hit "Crazyboutya," Barnes captivated the audience from the start. His voice, his guitar

abilities and his personality left the crowd wanting more.

"The Dave Barnes concert was amazing. I love how he has such a great stage presence, how he interacts with the audience and how he obviously loves to perform," freshman nursing major Marcheale Olds said.

In addition to singing originals, such as "On a Night Like This" and "Nothing Fancy," Barnes belted out Lonestar's "Walking in Memphis" which was an instant favorite. Barnes also encouraged the crowd to sing along to the familiar tunes.

The Battle of the Bands competition concluded the weekend of "Samford Stages," as nine student bands performed in the football stadium on Saturday night. Manchester Orchestra, a band out of Atlanta, opened for the event, while junior history major Ricky Thrash emceed throughout the night. The free smoothies and audience giveaways, such as an iPod shuffle and tickets to Birmingham's Crawfish, increased the crowd.

The bands included Ryan Fitzgerald,







Left: Students gather to listen to different bands play during Spring Fling.

Directly below: Ben Thompson tunes his guitar before the show.

Below: Adam Powell proposes to Ashley Cullop on stage during Brightfield's performance.



Charger, Three Guys and Hunter, Joy Be, Travis and the Daxtones, The Primaries, Brightfield, Basham's Superfly Honeys and Soul Cry. Each band was given 15 minutes to play and was judged based on originality, musical ability and crowd interaction. After three judges tallied up the scores, the first place honors, along with the cash prize, was awarded to Brightfield.

One of the surprises during Brightfield's performance was when senior psychology major Adam Powell, who is the bass guitarist, proposed to his girlfriend Ashley Cullop, a senior nursing major.

Lead vocalist Casey Marshall said, "Due to Brightfield being a fairly new band, we have not had many opportunities to compete. Actually Samford was our first 'battle.' It is very different playing for a competition rather than playing for fans that have come to hear and see you play your music. However, we had a great time playing at Samford Stages and look forward to many more performances together." ♦



# Embracing Cultures Around the World

by Meg Terry



Travel and change of places impart new vigor to the mind. Seneca

Many Samford students took the advice of Seneca, the ancient Roman philosopher, and invigorated their minds by traveling and experiencing a change of place.

Boundless transoceanic opportunities allow students to discover diverse venues such as England, Spain, Africa, Italy and Costa Rica.

The Department of World Languages and Cultures provides study abroad possibilities for every current student and even special alumni groups.

Through the study abroad program, students are given the unique privilege of experiencing a foreign culture while earning college credits. Each site holds its own enchantment and eccentricity.

The program Samford offers in Spain allows students the opportunity to study in this beautiful European country throughout summer vacation.

For the duration of about two months, students take courses in both Madrid and Salamanca.

Sophomore pre-business major Annie Murphree took advantage of the opportunity to visit Spain in the summer of 2005. Reminiscing about her stay with a family in Salamanca, Murphree said, "One afternoon, my 'madre' and 'padre' decided to take me to their house outside the city to relax and get fresh air. The 'pueblo,' as my Spanish parents called the countryside, looked and felt completely different than the city of Salamanca."

After spending time with her host family, Murphree realized that Spain was more than just a place on a map. "I was struck by how proud my Spanish parents were of their heritage, country, and way of life," Murphree said. "I realized that because my Spanish family had become special to me, Spain became special to me. It became real. It wasn't just another place but another home."

During Jan Term, many students chose to embark for the Central American country of Costa Rica in order to immerse themselves in the culture for three weeks. Students traveling to Santa Ana, Costa Rica also had the opportunity to live with a native host family.

Sophomore sports medicine major Emily Whitworth was one of the students who took

**"Being back in the United States, I'm trying to apply 'Pura Vida' to my everyday life."**

advantage of this opportunity. "Traveling in Costa Rica was interesting because each student lives with a Costa Rican host family. It's already a bit awkward to live with people you don't know but to not speak the same language only amplifies the situation," Whitworth said. "I was really worried about my host family, but they were wonderful and I feel like I learned so much more about the language and culture because I had the opportunity to live and be a part of a Costa Rican family."





While riding horses, zip-lining through the rain forest and daily living the Costa Rican lifestyle, students learned what it means to live by the Costa Rican term "Pura Vida."

"'Pura Vida' means 'pure life,' which represents the relaxed Costa Rican mindset," Whitworth said. "They take life as it comes and try to make the best of every situation rather than become stressed when things don't go their way. Being back in the United States, I'm trying to apply 'Pura Vida' to my everyday life."

Also, many students go to Kenya for their studies. Senior business administration major Brian Cook said he had an amazing and unforgettable experience on his 19-day safari.

"I won't ever forget waking up in my tent well before the sun came up to the sound of crazy monkeys jumping from tree branches onto our tent. On several occasions, I went outside to see what was going on and make them stop but they wouldn't listen to me," Cook said.

Similar to students who travel to other cities around the world, Cook learned how remarkably different the American culture is from the Kenyan culture.

He said, "The Kenyans' way of life is more primitive and slow paced than the Americans. Going to Kenya was almost like going back in time." Cook also spent a semester in London. Among all the many places to study around the world, London continues to be one of the most popular destinations. During their time studying

in London, students resided in Samford's very own Daniel House.

"Some of my most memorable experiences were living in the Daniel House with 21 friends. You could walk out the front door and within minutes be in the heart of London."

Although people in London speak English, senior education major Suzanne Mattox said she had a very different challenge in front of her as she studied in London during Jan Term. "Learning British sign language from my new deaf friends who live in London was such a memorable experience. British Sign Language is completely different from American Sign Language, so that was a challenge I had to overcome," Mattox said.

After senior English major James King's trip to London and throughout Europe, he said, "I learned the importance of accepting the unexpected. It was best to have a loose plan and be open to trying something new when a fun opportunity presented itself."

Students who choose to take their education overseas received not only college credit from their experiences but also gained a newfound appreciation for other cultures of the world.

Seneca would be pleased. ♦

Far left: Abbey Woodruff, Emily Woodard, Emily Whitworth and Abbey Michael at Conversa, Costa Rica.

Above left: Erin Stuart, Abby Thomas, Amanda Spikes, Kelly Leavitt, Susan Crawford and Anna Swindle on a Thames River Cruise with Big Ben behind them.

Above right: Brian Cook, in foreground, on a safari in Kenya.



Photo Credit: Nick Holdbrooks Page Design: Katherine Soop

# Shadowlands

by Sara Beth Terry

Just as the leaves turned their autumnal shades and the fall's first chill arrived, so did the inaugural play of the school year, William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*. *Shadowlands* is the well-known play based on a painful period in the life of renowned writer C.S. Lewis. It opened on Thursday night Oct. 6 and ran until Sunday Oct. 9.

With every seat in the house filled, the audience collectively experienced the emotion felt by the protagonist, played by sophomore theatre major Matt Godfrey, and his struggle with the loss of a loved one.

"The Christian circle seems to really put Lewis up on a pedestal, as if he was something more than a man. The

main thing I got out of this show was the humanity of him," Godfrey said. "*Shadowlands* focused on the darker thoughts he had toward the end of his life, and how he really was just a human who struggled with emotions just like we do."

Together, the spectators and Lewis, also known as Jack, tried to understand why God

permits suffering, the purpose of bad things happening to good people and the reason for the repetition of painful events.

**"Playing a character like C.S. Lewis was amazing, and amazingly difficult..."**

While portraying such a popular icon, Godfrey learned from his experience. "Playing a character like C.S. Lewis was amazing, and amazingly difficult, given his popularity and the fact



that he was a real person," Godfrey said. "It was a great challenge playing him because so many people have already decided what to think about him and his life, and I think this play does not show the cliché view of Lewis I have heard discussed."

Sophomore theatre major Natalie Saxon also learned from her role as Lewis' wife, Joy Gresham.

"From playing Joy, I learned how important it is to appreciate every moment. Even though she had bone cancer, she described those times of sickness as the happiest she had ever been," Saxon said. "She took the good with the bad and appreciated life for what it had to offer, and did not toil over the pain she experienced."

With its witty and charming banter, families enjoyed the show together as Samford hosted its annual Family Weekend. "Seeing *Shadowlands* with my parents was fun because it was something on campus my parents and I could enjoy together," freshman Leah Shell said. "Seeing it with them made the show more meaningful since it was about love and family."

Although the story was heart-felt and humorous, it was also thought-provoking and challenging.

The audience was dared to use their imagination to relate to Lewis' enchanting *The Magician's Nephew* as well as digest Lewis' deep theoretical questions he asks in his book *The Problem with Pain*.

"My two favorite parts of the show were when Joy's son, Douglas, pulled the apple off the tree and when he walked through the 'lion doors,'" junior Rachel Roll said. "The interpretation of *Shadowlands* was valid to me, along with the audience. We were all really captivated by the production."

Taking a closer look at the warm wood set, many found slight hints from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, such as the head of Aslan painted in a part of Lewis' study. This allowed the audience to use their imagination and feel comfortable within the realms of this fictional world.

"Many members of the cast and crew contributed to working on the show. Each worked diligently, whether constructing the actual set, acting, or being behind the scenes, all came together to produce an unforgettable show," said freshman Haley Heckman, who was a part of the property run crew.

As four different audiences appeared each night, whether sitting with a family member, friend or by themselves, each person explored within them the "shadows" in their own life and left resonated with the statement by the wise and prudent C.S. Lewis that "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pain." ♦



Above: Kurtis Donnelly and Rush Brunson gather around as Natalie Saxon and Matt Godfrey marry despite failing health.



Left: Natalie Saxon and Matt Godfrey share a private moment on stage as Joy Gresham and C.S. Lewis.



Below: John Cooley, Neal Tucker and Matt Godfrey debate the meaning of prayer.





# The Magic of the *Mikado*

By Sara Beth Terry

A comedic cast, a talented orchestra, elaborate costumes and an exotic theme all intertwined as students produced Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operetta, the *Mikado*.

*Mikado* is a romantic drama with a British take on Japanese culture. At the time the *Mikado* was written in 1884, London had been enthralled by the spread of Japanese culture.

"All Gilbert and Sullivan operettas lampoon some aspects of British

culture," director G. William Bugg said. "What is being ridiculed here is not Japan or Japanese culture but rather London's insane fascination with it."

The *Mikado* is about the son of the emperor of Japan, Nanki-Poo, played by junior Drew Pournelle, and his love for Yum-Yum, played by sophomore Erin Griffith. The conflict of the story arises

when Nanki-Poo is arranged to marry an elderly lady, Katisha, and Yum-Yum is supposed to marry her guardian, Ko-Ko. Hilarious shenanigans abound as both Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum try to circumvent their arranged marriages.

The play was a different type of show for many of the cast members because it was unique in script, and the actors and actresses were forced to reevaluate their

acting. Senior Catherine Holder who played the role

"There are just some shows that force you to grow both as a person and as a performer."

of Katisha said it was a great experience for her. "I learned more about this type of musical theatre," Holder said. "There are just some shows that force you to grow both as a person and as a performer. Despite the fact that this was a completely ridiculous show, I learned so much more from this show than from anything else in the past couple of years."





For freshman Murphy Maddox, playing a Japanese nobleman in the *Mikado* was his debut at Samford. "As a freshman, it was difficult to balance the *Mikado* with still getting oriented to Samford, but I'm so glad I did it," Murphy said.

Junior Sarah Knapp, who played Peep Bo with junior Sarah Simmons, said each character brought great wit to the show because of each personality's idiosyncrasies. "Working with the cast was a blast. It was fun, even when we were there long nights running the same scene," Knapp said. "I learned so much from this show mainly because my part was double-cast. It was nice to get to see someone else play my same role. It gives new perspective to how I interpreted the character."

The orchestra was also an important aspect of the production. "Playing in the orchestra pit for the *Mikado* was a unique experience in that our goal was not to be the focal point of the production, but to complement the vocalists. In that respect, we had a little more pressure to make sure we stayed together, but we definitely had a lot of fun," freshman Rachael Emery said.

The pit was a pivotal part of the show and provided an aspect that was necessary for the operetta to have. "I learned that the greatest talent requires help from another," junior chorus member Rod Evans said. "Whether it be a lighting or sound technician, someone in a leading role or a violin in the orchestra, these are only parts of a whole, and with each of these parts a great production can be made." ♦



Above left: The cast of *Mikado* singing the finale.

Above: Erin Griffith, Drew Pournelle, Jeff Smith and Alex Maddox drinking tea while singing a madrigal.



Left: John Huddleston and Rush Brunson are conspiring against a proposed execution.

Below: Drew Pournelle sings "A Wandering Minstrel I" with the men's chorus.



# Dancing Through Life

by Emily Mullins

The lights dim leaving the audience in anticipation. Silence engulfed the theater until a faint tap, snap, snap resounded from the stage. As the dancers tapped their shoes and snapped their fingers, they formed a rhythm for the rest of the concert. It was the rhythm of life.

With lights beaming from the floor, bold color and dramatic themes, this dance production was neither traditional nor conventional, but then again, neither is life. Rites of Passage, Samford's fourth annual dance production, portrayed life as unpredictable through its many trials and triumphs.

Director and senior music theatre major John Huddleston said his inspiration was life itself. "I wanted everyone to relate to what my dancers were going through emotionally," Huddleston said. "For this reason I decided to build a series of dances around common, daily experiences. Everyone has been influenced to some extent by love, death, religion, competition and friendship. This way, the audience hopefully thought, 'I know what that feels like,' instead of, 'My body doesn't do that.'"

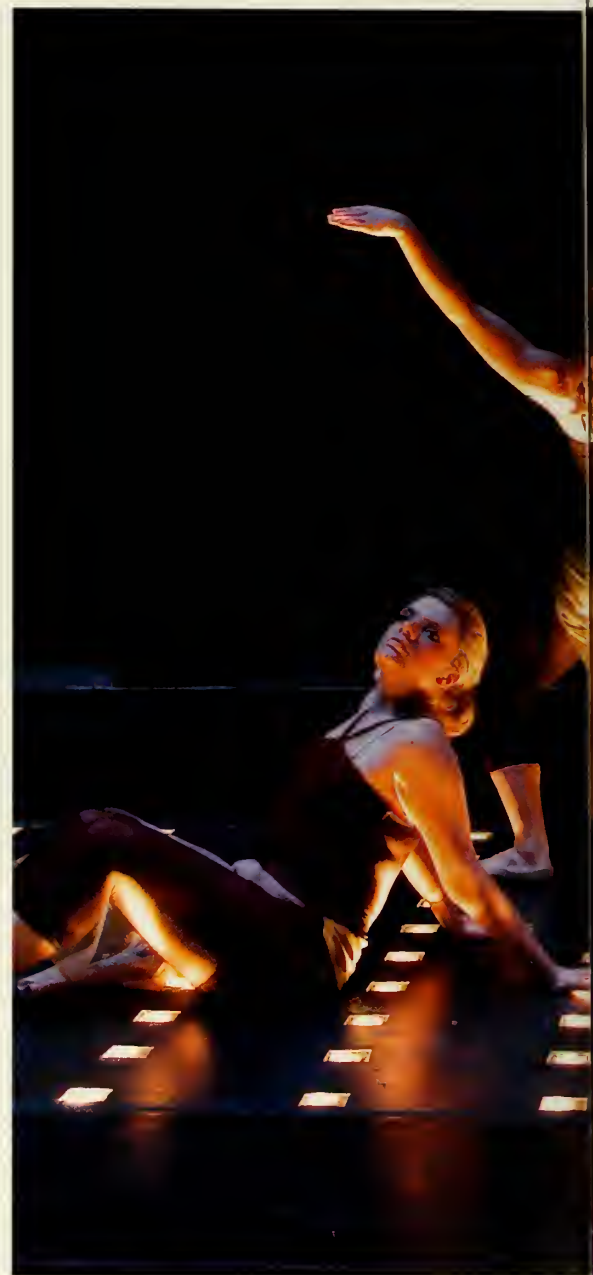
The audience moved throughout life's major themes including friendship, love, peer pressure and death in a personal way due to the theatre arrangement called "in the round." In this arrangement, the audience sits on the stage surrounding the dancers on three sides. "I wanted to create a dance production that was approachable

by the audience," Huddleston said. "I feel like many times in dance productions the audience is alienated because they are on the outside of the proscenium while the dancers are safely tucked away inside of it."

Many students said they felt connected to the show because of the theater arrangement as well as the familiar rites of passage. "It told a collective story that had to be seen and experienced. It was simply amazing to see," sophomore Katie Aldridge said.

Senior biology major Tanya Humphries said she liked the show because of the creativity. "I thought it was very creatively done, for instance, the curtain in the middle of the stage during 'Curiosity' so the audience could only see half of what was going on."

At the start and finish of the show, the tap dancers displayed the competition throughout life dispersed between three tap groups. A friendly tap number became a fierce competition as they challenged each







Far left: Catherine Holder, Harmonie Adams and Sarah Simmons begin an interpretation of friendship.

Left: Andrew Burrow and Geoffrey Douglas lift Christina Myers giving her wings to fly.

Directly below: The cast ends the show with a resounding stomp.

Below: As the show comes to a close, the cast taps to Dave Brubeck's *Blue Rondo à La Turk*.



other with the ferocity of their taps. For assistant director and junior music theater major Sarah Simmons, choreographing the tap number was the highlight of the dance production. "This production enabled me to choreograph a tap number for over a dozen people, which is something I have always wanted to do," Simmons said. "I have dreamt about it. To have the opportunity to put steps into the feet of dancers was amazing."

The participants also said they enjoyed working on the dance production. Dancer and junior interior design major Holly Morgan said, "I feel so fortunate to be a part of such a unique performance. It really strengthened my modern dance technique and helped me form a greater appreciation of it."

At the end of the last show, Simmons said, "The dancers were such hard workers. Drive and passion is contagious. These qualities within the dancers spread, which made the show better." ♦





# The Secret Garden

by Sara Beth Terry

As the lights dimmed, followed by the orchestra's first chords and the rising of the curtain, the audience was no longer in Harrison Theatre but inside a magical story book, *The Secret Garden*, written by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The play adaptation of this beloved classic was the spring performance for Samford's theatre students.

The set and lighting took center stage as they helped the audience look through the eyes of orphan Mary Lennox, played by freshman music theatre major Lydia Myers.

"Mary is a ten-year-old girl who is forced to live with her hunch-backed uncle after her parents die," Myers said. "She's a bit of a brat initially, but really makes a transformation to an energetic, curious, basically normal 10 year-old. I had a blast with this part. I was constantly on the move either jumping rope, stomping on people's feet or doing Indian dances. I've gained so much from this experience. I feel privileged to have been able to work along-side such amazing people to turn this childhood fantasy into a reality."

The childhood story held many memories not only for the audience members but also the cast members.

"I have loved this story for as long as I can remember," sophomore theatre major Barbara Cline, who played Colin Craven, said. "As a little girl I remember staying up late at night with my grandmother watching the movie. It has always been my favorite of mine. This opportunity to actually live out my childhood is a dream come true."

Sophomore music major Samantha Chambers who played Lily, Archibald Craven's deceased wife, said, "Portraying everything simply through song, rather than through words was the biggest challenge I had. But the music in this show is so beautiful that once I was comfortable with the notes, this became a lot easier."

Many of the actors were stretched to play different roles than they were used to. Senior vocal performance major Drew Pournelle played Mary's cranky hunchback uncle, Archibald. "I've never had such a serious role before. In fact, I've never really had a serious role at all," Pournelle

said. "So, I had to work extra hard to get it down. Archibald is a very complex character, so I just tried to get in his brain and follow what I believed would be his different thought processes and actions."

**"Samford has a talented and well-run theatre department full of incredible people, and I'm so glad I got to be a small part of it."**

The weekend performances went on without a hitch thanks to the cast and stage crew. "There are so many different aspects that go into putting on a show like *The Secret Garden* and so many people who serve in the show and aren't even seen by the audience," junior sports medicine major Robby Stone said. "Samford has a talented and well-run theatre program full of incredible people, and I'm so glad I got to be a small part of it."

Sophomore voice major Bobby Smith played the lively garden boy, Dickon. "In my role I had to basically be excited about life.





Far left: Colin (Barbara Cline), Archibald (Drew Poirnelle) and Mary (Lydia Myers) become one happy family at the conclusion of the play.

Left: Archibald expresses his love for his deceased wife (Samantha Chambers) with a dance.

Directly below: Mary and Dickon (Bobby Smith) look for the hidden key in the garden.

Below: Colin makes a pact to not tell his father about learning how to walk.



I had the awesome power to inspire others. Seven shows was a large undertaking, but the awesome cast and crew made it happen. With that chemistry, it was easy to perform night after night," Smith said.

The stage crew was also a significant part of the show. "Participating in *The Secret Garden* was a lot of fun. I was in charge of putting the microphones on the actors as well as moving scenery for set changes for 'Stage Left'. Overall the experience was fun, worthwhile and always entertaining," freshman communication studies major Lindsey Petrone said.

Director and senior theatre major Kurtis Donnelly offered some insight on the show in his director's note. "This production is a culmination of four years of late nights, dropped lines, missed classes, laughter and tears. Even more than that, this show is my final opportunity to instill the captivating power of theatre in all of you." ♦









# Reveal

**re·veal<sup>1</sup>** (r-vl)

**re·vealed, re·veal·ing, re·veals**

**v. Shedding light on world events and issues  
involving Samford students**

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# Year in

by Courtney Keene

## August

- 9 Space Shuttle Discovery returned home after 14 days in space.
- 14 Israel began its withdrawal from the Gaza strip, after occupying it for 38 years.
- 29 Katrina, one of the most powerful hurricanes to hit the northern Gulf Coast in half a century took numerous lives and homes, leaving New Orleans with no power, no drinking water, dwindling food supplies, widespread looting and fires.

## September

- 3 Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist died from cancer at age 80.
- 6 California legalized same-sex marriages.
- 23 Hurricane Rita hit East Texas and Western Louisiana, leaving thousands of people without homes.
- 29 John Roberts sworn in as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Average gas prices in the U.S. topped off at about three dollars per gallon.

## October

- 8 An earthquake in Pakistan, Afganistan and North India killed an estimated 80,000 people, injured 70,000 and left more than 3 million homeless and without food and basic supplies.
- 24 Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer, died at 92 years old. Parks helped ignite the American civil rights movement in December 1955, when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus.
- 26 White Sox's first World Series win in 88 years.
- 27 Twenty nights of rioting in Paris began, where one person was killed and 126 police and fire personnel were injured. Nearly 9,000 cars and at least two buildings were set on fire during the riots with about \$200 million in property damages.







## November

8 Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf won the Liberian presidential election, becoming Africa's first woman president.

9 Suicide bombers killed 57 people and injured almost 100 more during attacks on three hotels in Amman, Jordan. Iraq's al-Qaida took responsibility for the attacks, saying that they were retaliating for Jordan's support of the United States and other Western nations.

## February

11 Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded a campaign contributor during a weekend quail hunt on a friend's South Texas ranch.

- Thousands of Muslims across the Middle East, Asia and Africa protested cartoons of Muhammad from Denmark because the Islamic religion prohibits any depictions of him.

## December

15 About 11 million Iraqis were present to vote for their first permanent Parliament since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

- The Avian flu pandemic began to cause concern worldwide as it had already claimed 35 lives in Asia.

## March

8 Three Birmingham Southern College students were arrested and charged in connection with a string of Alabama church fires that were explained as a joke that "got out of hand."

- Controversy heated up over U.S. immigration, as Congress attempted to address the growing problems.

## January

31 Samuel Alito was sworn in as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice replacing Sandra Day O'Connor.

- U.S. oil company ExxonMobil reported that it earned \$36.1 billion in 2005, which is a record amount in corporate history.

## April

18 Two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested and charged with rape and kidnapping in a case involving a woman who accused three team members of attacking her at a party in March.

20 White House press secretary, Scott McClellan, resigned and the House Majority leader, Tom Delay, also gave up his congressional seat.

# A Fall Break<sup>to</sup> Remember

by Cacky Catlett

"Twas grace that brought me to this place and grace shall lead me home."

Amongst the rubble and debris, senior education major Brooke Ratchford found these words in front of what used to be someone's beachfront home in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

When hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf coast in late August of 2005, it became the most destructive and costly natural disaster in the history of the United States. According to Wikipedia encyclopedia, this powerful storm tore through Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, leaving behind close to \$75 billion in damage.

In an effort to aid those in the devastated areas, Student Ministries arranged a student relief trip. A total of 180 students signed up to spend their fall breaks working in cities across the Gulf Coast.

Ratchford was one of 12 students who traveled to Pascagoula for the trip. For her, it was an experience far beyond physical labor.

"It was very eye-opening to me. I was reminded of how unimportant material things are and how much relationships really matter," Ratchford said.

Under the leadership of special education professor Dr. David Finn, the students worked on four different homes and kept busy by cleaning up debris, ripping out ceiling tiles and putting in new insulation.

"They had such incredible teamwork. No one questioned what to do," Finn said. "They just found work and got it done."

The student team spent one of their workdays at the home of Finn's good

friends Laura and Ken Branch. "The Branch's home was completely gutted. Their possessions had been pushed out of the house and most of their stuff was in the backyard," Ratchford said. "It was hard to even see the grass."

The team took on the task of cleaning up the Branch's backyard and carrying the water-damaged items to the street for the city to pick up.

Ratchford said, "When we were picking up the stuff in their yard, it was as if I was walking on their lives. Their stuff was scattered everywhere. I saw wedding pictures and their kids' clothes. It was hard not to cry."

The Branch family had been working on renovations of the house that included the installation of new flooring and

an addition of 1,000 square feet. Before the storm hit, they were just days away from completing the improvements they had made. They returned to find all of their possessions stripped out of their house, leaving merely walls and a roof.

"I remember seeing Laura and Ken and thinking there's no way this is the couple who lost so much. There was nothing left in their house and yet they had smiles on their faces. I can only hope that I would have the same kind of attitude after something so devastating," Ratchford said.

Despite their loss, many of the residents throughout the community seemed to have a positive outlook.

"Some of the people we met there were left with nothing and yet it seemed like they had everything. They were so joyful despite their loss and it was obvious they had hope

**"They were joyful despite their loss and it was obvious they had hope for the future."**



for the future," Ratchford said.

One of the most shocking experiences Ratchford recalls was when the team drove to see the beachfront homes.

"When we got to the beach I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was so weird to see that these homes left in scraps. They were just bricks lying on the ground. We saw clothes in trees, pictures all over the ground, pretty much anything you could think of being in a house was somewhere on the ground," Ratchford said.

And even in the area that suffered the most devastation, there was a sense of hope. Ratchford said, "One sign we read that was sitting in front of what is now simply rubble said, 'Don't let Katrina steal your joy.' And that's exactly how the people of Pascagoula are living, joyfully." ♦





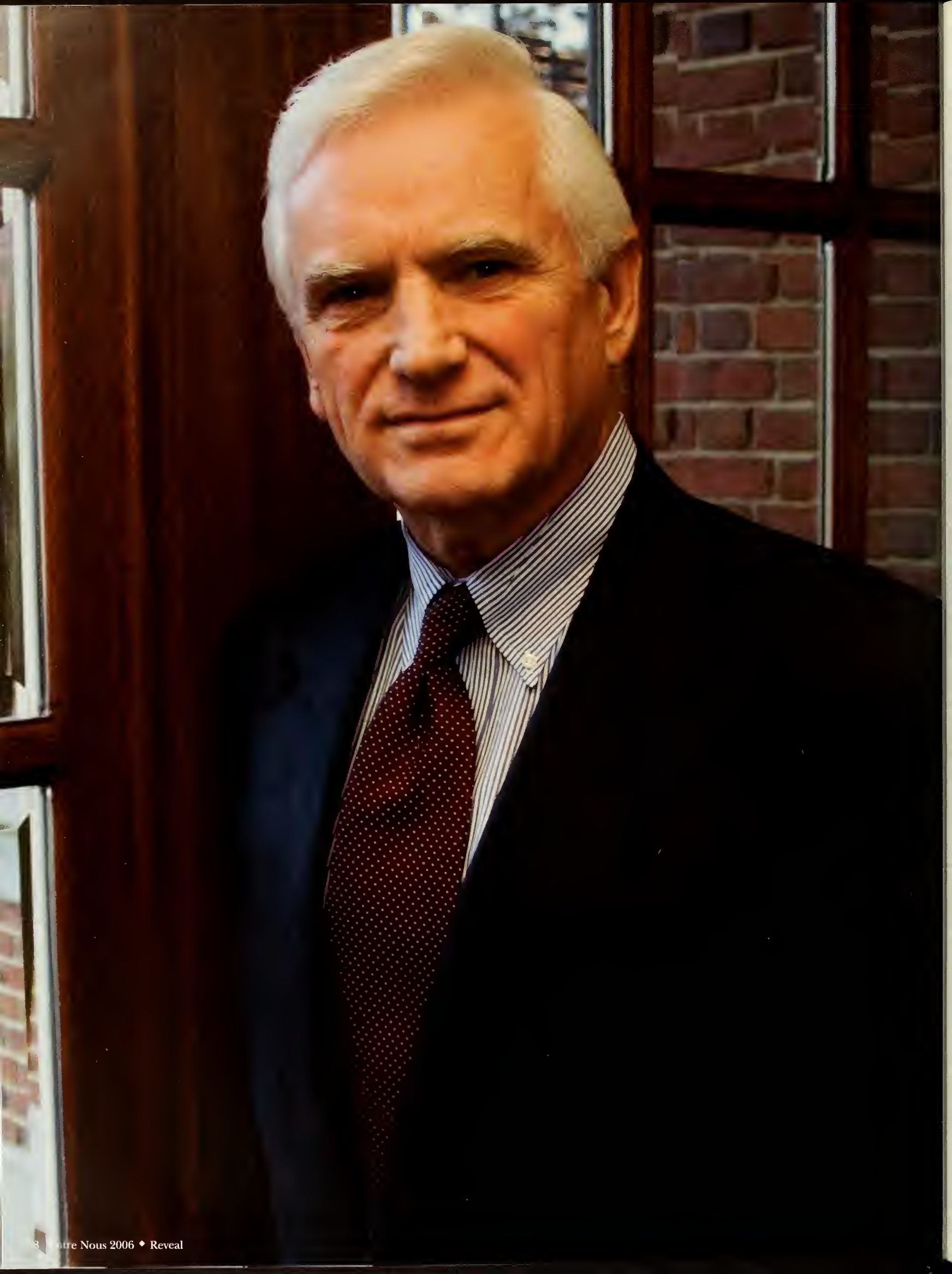
Left: A Pascagoula church destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Directly below: A Samford student removes molded tile.

Below: With dust mask, boots and gloves, the group in Pascagoula prepare to clean houses.









# A Legacy to Remember

by Meredith Henry

In addition to assisting the foundation of a new university in China, conducting an accreditation report for an out-of-state university, responding to at least four different correspondences and dealing with the formation of a new tax policy directly affecting Samford, Samford President Dr. Thomas E. Corts found time to sit down and talk to the staff of *Entre Nous*.

It's not just the students writing tribute articles that Corts took the time to see. All Samford students were important to him. "My rule is that if somebody wants to see me, I try to see them," Corts said.

Most students know of the enormous structural and enrollment growth Samford has experienced since Corts has been in office. Since 1983 when he first took Samford's reigns, the university has seen the addition of the Daniel House, women's athletics, football, Beeson Woods, the Healing Arts Center, Beeson Divinity School and the Sciencenter, to name a few. As beneficial as these expansions have been, Corts was quick to point out other, less-known additions of which he was quite pleased.

"I didn't necessarily aspire to be larger, but stronger, both academically and financially," Corts said. Corts not only left Samford with new structures, but also with new programs including Journalism and Mass Communication, Classics, Philosophy and Connections. In his administration, he also strengthened Samford financially by helping to negotiate the terms of several financial endowments, among them are those left by the Beeson family.

However, Corts did not use his upcoming retirement as an excuse to slow down. He spent every last moment here at Samford helping the university become a better place. Evidence of this was heard

throughout the campus as construction crews built a new parking deck, a recital hall and a sports arena and fitness center.

What will Corts do next? Even he was not quite sure yet. He did know one thing for sure, however. "I don't want to live by a schedule. I kind of want to take a sort of self-imposed sabbatical," he said. While he did voice his desire to, at some point, write about some of his more memorable experiences here, such as negotiations with Mr. Beeson regarding his endowments, only time will tell. No matter what he will do, Corts was quick to point out how much he will miss Samford. "I love everything about my job," he said when asked to describe his favorite aspect, "I just enjoy what I do and have gotten a lot of satisfaction out of it."

Still, Corts couldn't help confiding that "the most fun part, by far, are the students." While he admitted the office of President has had its fair share of trials and tribulations, Corts believed the positives far outweighed any negatives. "I've never dreaded coming to the office," he said, "I've always felt that the cause is worth it and that somebody's got to do this."

Although he was somewhat unsure of his own future, Corts had no doubts about Samford's. "There's a lot of real possibility and potentiality in Samford," he said. "I want [my successor] to be more successful, to raise more money, to come up with better and stronger ideas, to make this place a better and even stronger institution." Corts' ultimate hope for Samford University was "that the university will just become better and stronger, academically and financially. And, if that can happen, then I will have spent my time in the best possible way, running my lap of the race. If someone can build on that and make it much finer, then I'll be very happy."

Although Corts no longer works at Samford University, don't expect him to stop supporting our institution. When asked to sell Samford to a prospective student or supporter in thirty seconds, he didn't even have to stop and think. "I'd tell them that we draw very special students, very good students, not just academically but character-wise. We get good, solid American kids, primarily from the Southeast. We have an excellent faculty, we provide a good, solid education, and we're working to try and build an experience for the students—not just a place to accumulate credits and get a transcript, but a place to provide a genuine experience that touches all facets of life."

Dr. Corts has touched Samford University and all the students, faculty, and staff during his time as President. So, from all of us, "Thank you, Dr. Corts. You will be missed." ♦





Right: Construction starts on the new recital hall behind the music building.

Left: The construction in front of the Law Library.

# Construction Begins:

## Laying the groundwork for a brighter future

by Ann Shivers

Roaring bulldozers and pounding hammers were sounds that became just as common as the rushed voices of students walking to class or cars passing in the street. Over the summer, construction on new facilities and improvements on existing structures began that would take several years to complete.

Several decisions made by university administrators to delay some construction projects and move forward with others affected students. The brothers Pi Kappa Phi no longer face giving up their house next summer because of a decision to postpone building the West Campus Residence Hall across from Ramsey. The site will become a parking lot again, and the Pi Kappas were able to keep their house until construction plans moved forward again. "We're expecting to be in our house another year," said junior history major Taylor Clement.

"The reason we are not proceeding with construction on the new residence hall is primarily a timing issue," said Vice-President for Business Affairs Bill Mathews. Mathews explained that the Samford administration recommended that a residence hall be built on the parking lot site across from Ramsey

Hall provided that the residence hall could be completed in time to house students for fall 2006. "From the start we knew that we would have to use the construction plans for an existing building, with some modifications, if we were to complete the building in time," he said. "Upon further study we realized that any existing construction plans would not make the best use of the land, and it would take too long to draw up new construction plans with a new building design and new interior configuration." Mathews said that because the building could not be completed in time to house students for fall 2006, "there is no reason to rush construction at this time." He explained that the administration still intends to add a new residence and will use the delay as an opportunity to consider other sites. While plans for the new residence hall were put on hold, construction for the new arena began in January. As a result of construction delays, the arena, which was initially scheduled for completion in time for the graduation ceremony in May 2007, will most likely not be completed by that time, according to Vice-President for Facilities, Don Mott.

"The arena is a large, complex structure expected to require at least 18 months for construction, and construction projects seldom finish early," Mott said.

"Unforeseen yet necessary changes often lengthen the time required for construction. Hence, large projects often require longer construction periods than planned." Despite the changes on campus, Clement expressed his hope that students would be excited about the changes.

"The university needs to grow, and we need to grow with it," Clement said. "Samford has experienced so many great changes over the years, and it is the students who benefit from these changes. Whether we get to experience all the end results or not, let's have a positive attitude and be ready to enjoy the improvements," he said. "The university will be so much better for it." ♦









Emily Vernon, Sarah Dockrey and Ashley McCleery discuss a spread at one of their Entre Nous meetings.



# The Best of Both Worlds

by Kim Hobbs

The old saying goes "A picture is worth a thousand words." In reply to the adage, photography editor and senior graphic design major Nick Holdbrooks said, "This yearbook is about a thousand pictures."

Starting this year, *Entre Nous* is not like any other yearbooks Samford has seen because it's saturated with both pictures and journalistic articles. "This year's yearbook is both a yearbook and magazine," editor of *Entre Nous* and junior journalism major Ashley McCleery said.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Samford's yearbook was filled mainly with pictures and little text, which was a more traditional approach. However, in 1992 *Entre Nous* changed into a magazine consisting of articles and photographs. Since it was on a smaller publishing scale, the magazine included fewer pages to detail all the organizations and events that happened throughout the school year. "When it was a magazine, I don't think everyone knew it was supposed to be our yearbook," assistant editor and junior journalism and psychology major Emily Vernon said. "The magazine was great, but I don't think people really viewed it as our yearbook."

Senior nursing major Holly Buchanan agreed with Vernon, "I did not consider *Entre Nous* as a yearbook. I would read some of the articles, but a yearbook, to me, allows me to look at pictures of those who were at Samford with me."

However, senior athletic trainer Lucy Hare said she believed *Entre Nous* has provided a great overall impression of the school year in the past. Now, she said she's curious about this year's changes. "I saw it as just another publication, so I am excited to see the changes."

Amid excitement about the new changes came dedication and hard work from the staff. "Changing from a magazine to a yearbook was extremely difficult because the yearbook is three times the size of the magazine, so it's more work," art director and senior graphic design major Sarah Dockrey said. McCleery agreed that it was a lot more work than she bargained for. "I had no idea what I was getting into, but it has been worth it," McCleery said. Despite the increase in time and work, Dockrey also thought the change was beneficial. "It's an accurate snapshot of what Samford students experience," Dockrey said.

Overall, McCleery said she was extremely excited about being involved with *Entre Nous* this year and was even more ecstatic that students were looking forward to the release of the new yearbook that crossed journalism and photography. "Students being excited makes me excited," McCleery said. ♦

The editorial (directly below) and design staff (below) of *Entre Nous* 2005-2006 put in many hours to serve the student body at Samford.







Geoffrey Douglas, Jeff Smith and John Cooley trying to catch the prized snitch in an afternoon game of Quidditch.

Far right: Jeff Smith scoring a goal against Geoffrey Douglas' team.



# Brooms are Not Just for Witches Anymore

*"It all began one day in the caf. I believe it was a Wednesday. Yes, definitely a Wednesday," Donnelly said.*

by Whitney Farmer

It's hard to sit in the small office in Harrison Theater and listen to grown college seniors seriously use words like Hufflepuff and Quaffle and not laugh. In fact, it's close to impossible. But senior theater majors David Coley and Kurtis Donnelly don't mind. The co-founders of Samford's own Society of American Lawn Quidditch don't take themselves too seriously as they describe the birth of one of the only known versions of the official Hogwarts sport in Harry Potter.

"It all began one day in the caf. I believe it was a Wednesday. Yes, definitely a Wednesday," Donnelly began dramatically.

On that fateful Wednesday, Donnelly and Coley randomly discussed how entertaining it would be to play Quidditch. Then the idea hit them. They could. Only, they'd have to do it Muggle-style. In the Harry Potter series, the word muggle is used to describe non-magical humans.

"Once we got past the novelty of the idea, we wanted to get to the core of each part," Coley said. "We worked out everything from the different types of balls to the function of each player." Not only did they familiarize themselves with the game, they released the official rules and Muggle-addenda for "non-flying" players. They even standardized length of the broomsticks that must be between each player's legs.

Back in September, when the games commenced, they organized an official "Sorting Ceremony," reminiscent of the scene in *Harry Potter* in which students are placed in their respective school houses by a magical hat. During the first game, players showed up and captains were chosen from a hat, magic-lessness notwithstanding. The captains selected team members, and

the Society of American Lawn Quidditch was officially born. Since then, Samford's Quidditch popularity spread beyond the theater department and included a variety of students from different majors.

The growing crowd illustrated their devotion towards the sport. "We occasionally have to re-schedule games, but we've never cancelled one," Coley said. "We've played games in pouring rain and freezing temperatures. The rain game was rough."

This level of commitment is indicative of Coley and Donnelly's devotion to their concept. They put a lot of effort into working out the kinks and changing concepts that don't work in the real world.

"We treat it like a real sport as much as possible," Coley said. "Before the games, everyone lines up with their brooms and we play the national anthem." For all the naysayers who don't believe that Lawn Quidditch is a sport, Donnelly and Coley caution that games often get rough.

"It's a very contact sport. You can check people," Coley said. "There have been chipped teeth or broomsticks to the eye. I almost broke my nose."

"In our version, the Bludgers have a bat to knock the ball around," Donnelly added. "There's always the event where the person with the bat can go awry. People get pretty heated."

For those people, there's a penalty box. Senior theater major Geoffrey Douglass, who has been a part of Quidditch since the beginning, can testify to the passion of the game that makes the box necessary.

"I've been sent to the penalty box," Douglas admitted. "It was for pushing someone from behind and then for yelling



at the ref for sending me to the penalty box for pushing someone from behind."

Douglass said that his involvement from the start has allowed him to see the game's progress.

"It's actually working out really well," Douglas said. "There used to be a lot of confusion, but we've nailed everything down and it's better." Since the group could not convince Campus Recreation that their blood, sweat and tears during Quidditch was worthy of being an official intramural team, Coley and Donnelly funded the endeavor themselves. "We're broke because of it," Donnelly said. "But, hey, we invented a sport."

Quidditch brought a new form of recreation to Samford's campus, which piqued the interest of many students.

"People come out for the novelty and to see what it's about," Coley said. "But they stay because it's just a really fun time."

Reflecting on the game, Donnelly said, "It's magical." ♦







# Popping

## the Samford Bubble

by Courtney Keen

Hey how are you? Good. You? Good. Good. I'm good. You're good. The food's good. The show was good. Life's just good.

You probably heard this refrain repeated over and over by various students greeting each other on the sidewalks. But behind these mechanical answers, things aren't always what they seem. Many Samford students have suffered through challenging circumstances in order to be able to wear a smile on their faces, and these are just two of their stories.

Ann\* became a victim of sexual abuse her sophomore year and had to make the difficult decision of whether or not to stay at Samford or go to home for a while in order to recover. "I wondered what would happen if I packed up my car and left without telling anyone where I was going," she said. "I felt like I just needed to disappear."

Ultimately, she decided to stay and try to tough it out. Unfortunately, things only got worse as depression began to overwhelm her. Day after day she witnessed the seemingly easy lives of her friends and family, and soon Ann started to feel angry and as though no one could understand what she was dealing with.

"This was the kind of thing no one discussed. As far as I was concerned, I was the only student on Samford's campus who had suffered through this kind of experience," Ann said.

Soon, Ann's grades began to suffer as she could barely find the strength to get out of bed every morning. She questioned why God would let something so horrible happen to her. Aren't His children supposed to be spared from such evils in this world?

When it was time to go home for Christmas, Ann thought that she could hide her problems from her parents, but they immediately knew something was wrong. As she braced herself to tell her mother what had happened, she expected the worst.

"I closed my eyes. I hesitated before speaking. I knew my words would break her heart," she said. However, the reaction from Ann's mother turned out to be a weight off of her shoulders. "Instead of being angry with me like I thought she would, she gave me a big hug and cried with me and for me," Ann said. "This was the first step in healing."

The road to recovery proved to be long and hard, but finally revealing her secret to her mother allowed Ann to begin regaining her life. She also discovered important traits about herself and God. "The hardest lesson to learn was that God uses horrible life experiences to teach lessons that are hard to learn," Ann said. "You think that God works against you, but in reality, that's not the case."

Ann does not pretend to have everything under control, but going through such a tough time in her life has made her a stronger person, and for that she is thankful. "It has been a difficult path to follow and I still have a long way to go, but I know God is there to help me every step of the way."

John\* has always been overachiever. He enjoyed being involved in everything that he could and even held various leadership positions. However, he was also good at worrying about everything. At the beginning of his senior year his commitments, coupled with 18 hours of classes and graduate school exams became too much for him to handle.

"I just felt like I was in a tiny box being suffocated, and that I could see all this wonderful stuff out there but did not know how to get out of the box to enjoy it," John said. "It was the most frustrating thing that has ever happened to me."

Soon his relationships began to suffer as well because some of his friends had a hard time understanding what John was going through.

"I felt like such a bad friend," he said. "I was not neglecting my friends purposely, I just had so many things on my plate that

hanging out with them was the last thing on my list." Fortunately, several of John's close friends stuck by him and soon became worried after he experienced several panic attacks.

"My heart would start racing. I would get short of breath. I would get lightheaded. I got really scared," John said. Soon after, he realized he needed to consult a doctor.

John was diagnosed with high anxiety levels and mild depression, so the doctor prescribed a low dose of anti-depressants for him to take daily. It wasn't an instant fix, but after working at it for a few months, John has begun to enjoy things like he used to. In retrospect, he says he believes his situation has made him a stronger person.

"The medication has helped, but most importantly, prayer and trusting Christ have been the foundation of my strength and understanding," he said.

John also gave credit to his friends for their support during and believes that it's important for students to realize that it's okay if their lives don't always fit the mold.

"Students here deal with the same amount of problems, if not more, than others," he said. "But because there is a stereotype that Samford students have it all together and that everything is great, additional stress arises to try to make it appear as if everyone has it together."

Although Ann and John experienced some situations that they would not have chosen, they said they are stronger, wiser and more compassionate because of these experiences.

Two Samford students decided to break their silence in order to give hope to others. They want people to know that even though life is not always "good," it is most certainly worth the fight.

In John's words, "No one is immune to life's struggles, no matter what school they attend, what social class they come from or what their religious beliefs might be." ♦

\* Names have been changed.

by Emily Vernon

Attend Convo or sit in a religion class for about an hour and you only begin to scratch the surface of what it means to be a Christian on Samford's campus. There's more to it than just a belief.

Christianity means different things to different people and is interpreted in multiple ways. "Christianity is about substance. It's more than a word," Amanda Williams, sophomore Biology major said. "It's a journey or a race that you are trying to finish."

For many students, Samford was their college of choice because of its Christian heritage and the reputation that it has. "I went to Florida State for my undergrad program and I can definitely see the difference between the two schools," Sarah Brooks, first year Pharmacy student, said. "The environment is more nurturing and the professors really care."

Choosing a school like Samford was not a decision taken lightly by many students. For Williams prayer played a major role in her decision to come to Samford. "I wanted

something where I felt like Christianity was real. I wanted to be in a place where faith was something that was practiced and not just talked about," Williams said. "As soon as I drove through the gates, I knew God had answered my prayers. I knew this was where I wanted to be."

As a Christian institution, Samford provided ample opportunity for students to incorporate faith into the learning process this year. By asking questions and exploring attitudes, students discovered the way their faith affected the way they viewed the world around them. "You really have to think about what you believe in," junior Stevanie Chestnut said.

Outside of the classroom students freely expressed their faith in a variety of ways. Each week students from Samford, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Birmingham Southern gathered together on Wednesday evening at Mountain Brook Community Church to participate in University Christian Fellowship. At UCF students sang praises and listened to a

spiritual message while studying the Bible. UCF allowed students to take a break from busy schedules and homework and gather together in fellowship.

Convocation provided another outlet for students to learn about faith. By listening to various guest speakers at Convo, students were able to hear and see how God impacted the lives of many people. Students also learned about different mission projects both locally and across the globe.

"The community here at Samford has been a good environment that has helped me to grow in my faith," first year pharmacy student Rachelle Strickland said.

Throughout the year students embraced faith in and out of the classroom whether it involved praying in the caf before a meal or sharing opinions in a small Bible study group. Students consistently found new ways to challenge themselves and grow in faith. "The race of faith is hard to finish, but God's grace gives us the ability to do so," Williams said. ♦

# Turning the View Around







# Caught Red Handed

by Meredith Henry

For much of Feb. and March, Alabama was the focus of national media attention as a string of church arsons erupted. By the time the smoke cleared, five churches were destroyed, four were damaged and three Birmingham college students were arrested.

Ben Moseley, Russell DeBusk, both 19, and Matthew Lee Cloyd, 20, admitted to being involved with the arsons. They were connected to nine fires set in rural areas of counties southwest of Alabama. However, there was no evidence to link them to a 10th fire set on Feb. 11.

In the beginning, authorities feared that these arsons might be expressions of anti-religious or racial tensions. However, no evidence supported this claim. Of the nine churches the students vandalized—five in Bibb county on Feb. 3 and four in Greene, Sumter, and Pickens counties on Feb. 7—five had predominately black congregations while four were comprised predominately of white members.

In addition, Moseley and DeBusk both attended Birmingham-Southern College, an institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Alabama Governor Bob Riley said, "There is not any type of conspiracy against organized religion or against the Baptists or

against religious beliefs in particular."

When questioned, the students gave no other motivation for their actions other to say that it was a "joke" that got out of hand. They were deer hunting in Bibb County when they knocked in the doors of two churches which they later set on fire. Moseley claimed that the other four fires were then set "as a diversion to throw investigators off."

Far from being thrown off, the increase in crime scenes helped investigators break the case. Witnesses were able to give them a description of the arsonists' car as a "dark-colored SUV." Then, investigators found a set of tire tracks they believed belonged to this vehicle. From there, investigators were led to a green Toyota 4Runner owned by Cloyd's mother. She identified Cloyd as the car's primary driver.


Moseley and DeBusk were expelled and barred from the Birmingham-Southern campus, and all three suspects were held on federal charges of conspiracy and the arson of Ashby Baptist Church in Bibb County. The students faced a minimum prison term of five years for each count.

Although these were not Samford students, it impacted the Birmingham community, including Samford. For an anonymous junior

English student at Samford, the church fires hit close to home.

"I went to high school with Ben Mosely. Everybody loved him," she said. "He was the lead in the school plays, homecoming king, president of the student council and a member of other extracurricular activities. More than that, he was voted into these positions not because he was that popular kid that thought the world of himself, but because he was outgoing and well-known, and he was still friendly to everyone."

Despite his success in high school, she said she still doesn't understand what led him to do something so drastic. "I haven't seen him in a few years, but this was a huge shock to me," she said. "I mean, I understand that sometimes people aren't who they seem, but imagine the person least likely, in your mind, to do something like this, and know that people who know Ben would have thought the same of him. I'm not saying he's completely not who I thought, and I have no idea what factors played a part in this whole thing, but just that it's a shock." ♦



A firefighter sprays water on hot spots of a fire that destroyed Pleasant Sabine Baptist Church, Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, in Centreville, Ala. The church is one of five hit by suspected arson fires in Bibb County, Ala., overnight.





Photo Credit: AP Photo/Rob Carr Page Design: Andrew Searles



# White buds are blooming

by Kim Hobbs

A phenomenon broke loose this year on campus. White buds filled many ears, allowing students to connect to another world, a small world with endless possibilities.

In other words, students were attached to the world of an iPod. This device, made by Apple, allows owners to create custom music and picture libraries in addition to storing thousands of songs.

Due to this luxury, the iPod has become a growing fad. According to CNN in October 2005, Apple sold 28 million iPods since their appearance in 2001. Samford students have joined the rest of the world in the iPod craze.

Using iPods allowed Samford students to have all of their music with them at all times, without carrying around dozens of different CDs.

"I wanted a better way to carry my music, rather than lugging around a big portable

CD player," freshman nursing student Patrick McLendon said.

The iPod comes in three different styles, which store different amounts of songs. The iPod stores 15,000 songs, the Nano 1,000 and the Shuffle 260. To add to the music library, owners download songs onto the iPod from personal computers.

"I love having an iPod because I can download one song without having to buy the whole CD," junior nursing student Allison Kellermann said.

Samford students used iPods anytime and anywhere. Junior international relations major Kristen Straw said she listened to her iPod as she traveled, drove and studied. McLendon also said he used his iPod when he studied and even while he walked from

place to place. Although the iPod was loved and used by many, some felt the iPod might be a fad. "iPods were just the cute things to have," Emily Holladay, freshman journalism and political science student, said.

**"I love having an iPod because I can download one song without having to download the whole CD."**

"If I could do it over again, I would have gone for [a newer] Mp3 Player." However, Holladay admitted she has loved her pink Mini iPod because it is a more convenient way to store and carry different types of music and is easy to use.

The iPod might have been a technological fad, but many students enjoyed these little portable music libraries. "I love my iPod because it fits right in my hand, and I can download lots of songs," Kellermann said. ♦

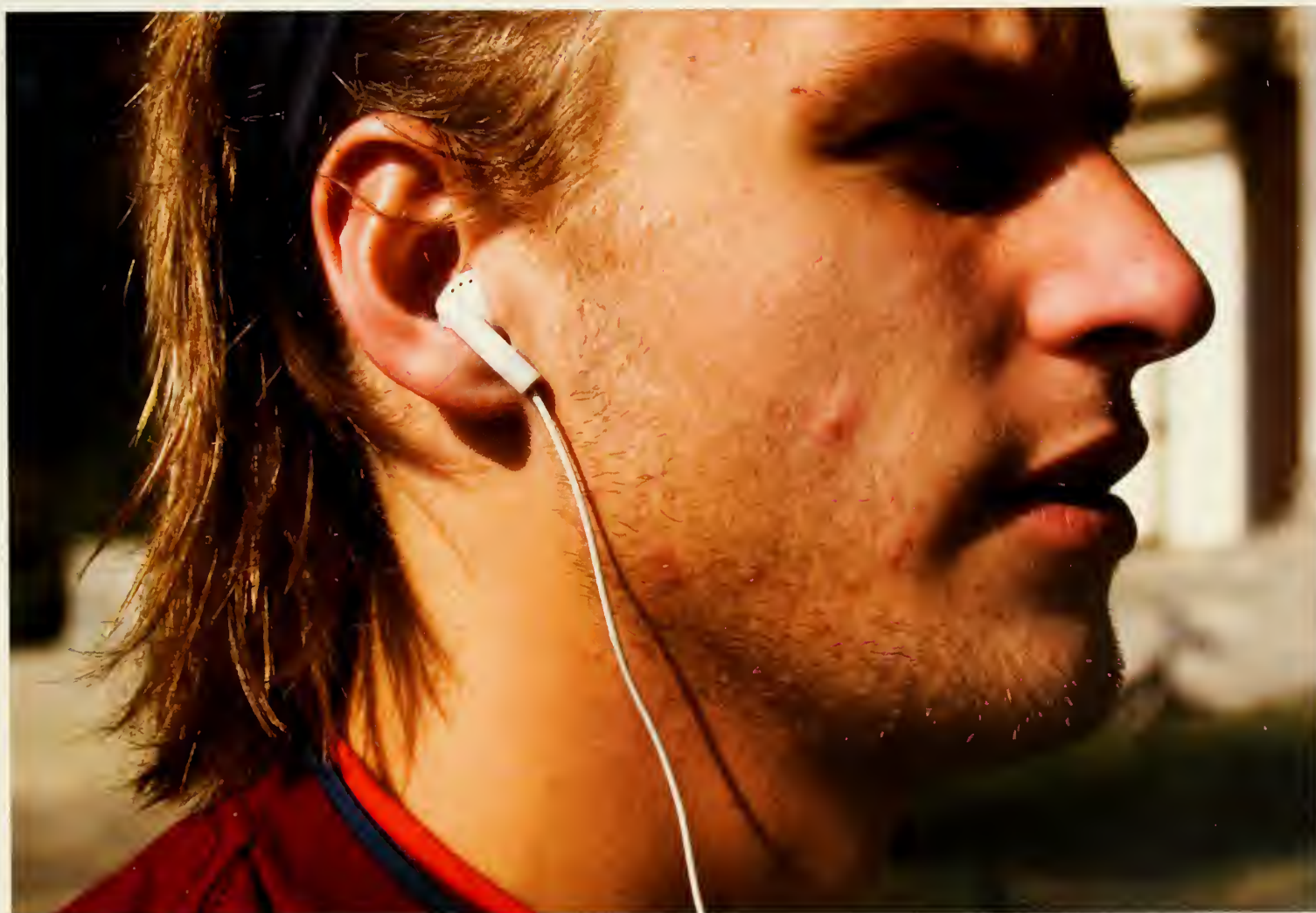




Far left: Even Mr. Beeson has fallen prey to the iPod craze. Just like Mr. Beeson symbolizes Samford's campus, the iPod symbolizes the new wave of music technology.

Left: Samford students have access to thousands of songs at their fingertips.

Below: Jay Lasater grooves to his iPod tunes as he strolls down the sidewalk.











# Pledge

**pledge** (plj)

**pledged, pledg·ing, pledg·es**

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| <i>Brittany Jones</i> | <i>Katie Graham</i>    |                      |                        |                         |                           | <i>Jackie Langer</i>       | <i>Heather Mackey</i>  | <i>Sarah Mallant</i> | <i>Martha McKay</i>   | <i>Ashley Mills</i>  |
| <i>Monica Riley</i>   | <i>Katie</i>           |                      |                        |                         |                           | <i>Rachelle Strickland</i> | <i>Lindsey Stryker</i> |                      |                       |                      |

Alpha Let  
SPL L  
BNU



# Rush Diary

by Anna Holzman

Today was the first day of recruitment. It was a day filled with anticipation and excitement. For the first night we were supposed to wear white T-shirts, so everyone would look the same. This way, the parties would be focused solely on the individual and not what she was wearing.

I met my Rho Gamma, Lydia Moss, and the rest of my group in the Ben Brown Plaza. We went to the caf to eat dinner together. I'm usually a big fan of the caf, but on this particular night, the thought of food made me sick. After dinner Lydia told us which parties we would attend.

My group went to three parties. We first went to the Phi Mu house, then Chi Omega, and we finished the night with Alpha Omicron Pi. As I stood outside the Phi Mu house waiting to experience my first night of rush, I felt a wave of excitement come over me. Girls inside all the different houses were banging on the windows and cheering. It was simply exhilarating.

Lydia lined us up in alphabetical order. As we entered each house, a girl knew each of our names. Then, the girls walked us into the chapter room.

After waiting in line for about ten minutes, all the Rho Gams and girls inside the houses began to count down. It was time to enter my first house.

I walked in and was taken by the arm of a nice girl, who greeted me and made me feel right at home. The other sorority sisters were singing and smiling, and I felt a little overwhelmed. Once I sat down, I learned about Phi Mu's philanthropy and then talked to different sorority sisters about Phi Mu. Everyone was so sweet and personable. After spending 45 minutes in the house, it was time to move on and go to the next. Once I stepped outside, my friends and I gathered around each other. Even though we weren't supposed to, we talked about how much fun we had in the house and how thrilling rush was. This process continued throughout the night with each house we ventured to.

For the second night, we wore our white recruitment T-shirts again. Instead of visiting three houses we only went to two. First, I went to the gym for a break, then to the Alpha Delta Pi house followed by the

Zeta house. The houses were decorated beautifully. In each stunning house, girls asked me questions and really seemed genuinely interested in what I said. These past two nights have been so much fun because I met such wonderful girls.

I wasn't nearly as nervous the second night as I was the first night. The girls in my Rho Gamma group and I goofed off and talked. But once the sorority sisters started the count down, we put our "game faces" on. After attending all the houses, Lydia took us to fill out a sheet of paper and make our cuts. On a Scantron form, we ranked the houses we visited in the past two nights. This was not an easy process for me because all the different sororities were wonderful and had so much to offer.

On theme night, I received a list with invitations to return to four sorority houses.

Instead of traveling with my Rho Gamma group, I went on my own because we all had

different parties to attend. Theme night was so much fun but also stressful. Each house had a different theme and used that theme to decorate, describe their creed and share stories and performances. I enjoyed listening to the girls share stories and sing about what sisterhood meant to them. It was actually one of my favorite nights. I felt I was able to get a better feel for each sorority as I indulged in some amazing conversations. After all my parties, I met Lydia in the gym along with the rest of my group to rank the sororities once again.

The next day, I discovered I was asked back to two houses. I walked into the houses as usual and was guided to my chair by one of the girls who I had already talked to. The girls told me why they wanted me in their sorority and what attributes and qualities they saw in me that could contribute to their sorority. It was so flattering and sweet, but it made my decision even more difficult.

After attending my final two parties, I walked in silence back to the flag colonnade to fill out my bid card. I ranked my top

three sororities and left feeling at peace with myself because I had made the right decision.

Later that day, my rush group went to dinner at Chili's and talked about our day. It was so nice to see everyone again and hear about their experiences. Lydia told us we had to stay in our rooms later that night because she might be coming by to let us know if we did not get a bid. As I sat in my room, I felt so nervous.

My roommate and I kept analyzing the different things that could happen. However, Rush was such an amazing experience, even if it was an emotional roller coaster. I spent Sunday morning getting ready to go to the gym and receive my bid card. Both my roommate and I survived the night and looked forward to joining a sorority.

"Overall, rush was definitely a 'rush.' There really is no better word to describe it."

Whoever named today "Squeal Day" definitely had the right idea! All the girls met in the gym, and the parents and boys watched us as we jumped up and down screaming once we received our bids. The different sororities were in different corners of the gym screaming and doing cheers. They counted down and passed the bid cards out. Ten, nine, eight, seven, six... my heart raced... five, four, three, two... Oh gosh...one! Everyone in the gym screamed and ran to their sororities. It was so thrilling!

I was fortunate to join the sorority I wanted. I was so excited when I ran over to all the girls and received hugs from all of them. We left the gym and went up to the house where girls took pictures, danced and laughed. It was so fun! We ate lunch in the house and spent the rest of the day just getting to know one another and talking about our different experiences. Overall, rush was definitely a "rush." There really is no better word to describe it. I had so much fun and feel so blessed to be a part of the organization that I'm in. ♦



# The Chronicles of Fraternity

by Murphy Maddox

Let's get this straight. I had promised myself all my life that I would never, under no circumstances, even consider joining a fraternity when I came to college. I somehow gained the widespread perception of the fraternity experience- hangovers and hazing nightmares. My immature intuition may have been quite right for many state schools, but Samford seemed to offer something a little less intimidating and a lot more constructive. So I caved.



As I reluctantly filled out my rush form, I discovered I had quite a legacy. Several uncles, cousins and even my father all belonged to the same fraternity. I never knew until college that my dad was once in a fraternity. Respectful of him, I decided that the experience might not be the evil I had perceived it to be.

On the evening of Friday, September 22, I walked into Brock Forum with over 90 other dressed up guys, all anxious and unsure about what was ahead. The Interfraternity Council meticulously went through all the rules for the weekend banning any "dirty rushing." We split up into several small groups and set out for "Smokers," a time for recruit groups to become acquainted with each of the five rushing fraternities at Samford. In the first half hour of my rush experience, I met several guys, many of whom I still am friends with. We all shared common feelings of anxiety, which triggered excitement about what the weekend held.

After hours of shaking countless hands and hearing spiels about what makes each fraternity so great, I was exhausted. I had crossed off one, maybe two, fraternities from my list with the discernment that they simply were not for me. Knowing the next night's open house would be even longer, I retired for the night.

On Saturday night, I visited three houses. After being wined and dined with a whole roasted pig, homemade lasagna and Jimmy Ray's lemon pie, I was hooked.

The problem, however, was that I was hooked on two different fraternities. My options were dwindling but quickly gaining more importance. I had experienced five different groups, but now there were only two on my mind. Sunday morning I went

to see whose house I was invited back to for "Brothers' Night In." I had one, two, three, four invitations. Surely I couldn't go to more than one. Thus, I found myself at another fork in the road.

After spending Saturday evening at the house of my choice, I was set on one fraternity. But was I even set on the whole experience at all? Unlike the girls' experience, Rush, for guys, is glamorous. The real stuff generally comes with pledgship. I am a vocal major, and staying up all night being "initiated" isn't a luxury I can afford. I went to bed Sunday night unsure and uncertain.

**"The other rushees and I were pounded with a question, 'What could you bring to this fraternity?'"**

Monday morning came and with the day came dwindling invitations. I had three for "Brothers' Night Out." I was told I could go to two, but I chose one, somewhat sure it was the one for me. I went and had barbecue at a house, a real home, away from the all too familiar surroundings of Smith Hall. The other rushees and I were pounded with a question, "What could you bring to this fraternity?"

I started to feel insincere, answering the same questions with the same answers, but I shared what I meant. I left that night knowing that my previous perceptions of fraternities were wrong. I liked everything about it.

I went to my dorm and got on my knees, praying that God would lead and bless whatever decision I made. He made it absolutely certain what His will was for me.

I awoke the next day with firm but uneasy resolve. I walked down to the Bid signing in the Flag Colonnade. I knew whether or

not I got a bid would make the decision much easier.

As it turns out, I did get a bid. I talked with the Rush chairman of the fraternity for which I received a bid. Much to both of our surprise, I turned it down.

As much as I wanted to be in a fraternity, God had a different plan. Looking back, I was already overwhelmed with extra-curriculars, swamped with my class schedule and engaged with some awesome friends. I prayed God would honor that decision, and I can't even begin to describe how wonderfully it has all worked out.

For the entire month before Rush, I heard, "do it for the free food." Food might actually be the memory for many, but for me, I'll remember the countless faces and individuals I had the privilege of getting to know. Maybe I'll join next year and maybe not. But, God used my experience with fraternities to help me respect what I almost became-a brother of the 2005 pledge classes at Samford University. ♦



# Open for Business

By Maegan Wilson

What comes to mind when the fraternity Lambda Chi is mentioned? Some may think trouble, others may think about the chapter's past glory days and a few may think, "who?"

Many students, especially freshmen and sophomores, may not know much about Lambda Chi since the chapter was put on probation from 2002-2003, and the fraternity's housing charter was suspended for the 2004-2005 school year. This decision came during the summer from Lambda Chi's housing corporation, with support from Samford, when stolen property and alcohol were found on house grounds.

The fraternity negotiated with Samford a one year suspension, which they served during the last academic year. All of the brothers had to move out of the house, located on campus at 632 Shelburne Ln. "It was disheartening to see the house in

such poor condition at the beginning of fall 2004," current Lambda Chi President Chris Edmunds said.

During the 2004-2005 suspension, the brothers of Lambda Chi still played sports under the alias Theta Kappa Nu and participated in social activities. "Losing a year of recruitment was devastating, but it rebuilt our passion to make the house better," Edmunds said.

Last year, Director of Greek Life and Student Organizations Frank Parsons said alumni involvement would be a key factor for the chapter's improvement. This year, senior John Griffie served as Vice President of Alumni Relations.

Over the summer, Griffie established an alumni base through mass mailers, lunches, phone calls and a welcome back event barbeque. The final night of the fraternity's 2005 recruitment was held at an alumni's





Left: The Lambda Chi house is back in business.

Below: Chris Edmunds strikes a pose in the Lambda Chi living room.



house off campus, where other alumni attended. "It was good to be reunited in fellowship and have the guys back down," Edmunds said.

Parsons also outlined direct steps to get the fraternity back on track during their year of suspension. These included revamping the pledge program, creating an alcohol education program, establishing an academic program and increasing visitation from national organization members.

During the previous academic school year, Lambda Chi geared up and instituted an alumni mentoring program, raised this year's initiation grade point average, sent letters to alumni and worked on the chapter's house. Lambda Chi not only worked within its chapter and national organization, but it also worked with Samford and the Greek system to get back

on track. Chapter representatives were allowed to sit in on Interfraternity Council meetings.

Although the fraternity could not participate in these meetings, they played an active role in Greek and Samford events such as the Old Howard 100 Bike Ride.

**"Losing a year of recruitment was devastating, but it rebuilt our passion to make the house better."**

"Working with the administration wasn't too difficult. They were always pretty upbeat. It was a little challenging in the beginning, though. We had to work to find a common denominator for what the chapter was striving for," Edmunds said. ♦

# It's All Greek to Me

by Melissa Poole

The saying, "It's all Greek to me" seemingly fits the Greek life involvement at Samford. Not only did the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic council help sponsor and run different campus and community events, but the individual fraternities and sororities also appeared in many places around campus this year.

IFC and Panhellenic co-sponsored or partnered with other organizations to produce such events such as the campuswide blood drive, joint scholarship banquet and Mercedes Marathon. In the fall of 2005, IFC, Panhellenic and Student Government Association brought diversity speaker Johnny Lee Clary, a former Klu Klux Klan member, to Samford's campus. Not only did he provide insight to Samford students but to the Birmingham community as well.

Greeks didn't just raise money or sponsor these events, they also manned them and accounted for many of the attendees. Frank Parsons, Director of Student Organizations and Greek Life, said, "IFC and Panhellenic have a huge presence on Samford's campus, and many events would not happen without their continued support."

IFC and Panhellenic have solely funded several events on Samford's campus to benefit the community. In the past they have also held a charity softball tournament as well as the Greek Awards and most recently started the Mackawain tutoring program.

Sororities and Fraternities also provided a huge presence on campus by showing up in large numbers to support events on campus. Participation and attendance by students at the Old Howard 100 and Kickin-it-4-Kids was 90% Greek according to Parsons.

"The Old Howard 100 wouldn't have happened without the help of the sororities and fraternities," Parsons said.

Sororities and Fraternities were responsible for raising several thousands of

dollars for charities and charitable events aside from their organization's personal philanthropies. After Hurricane Katrina hit, Greeks jumped into action and raised several hundred dollars.

In addition to raising money, fraternities and sororities showed support for organizations such as SGA and Student Ministries by providing the majority of attendance at Samford sponsored events. Ten out of the 12 Samford Greek organizations participated in the 2005 Homecoming Parade and campuswide tailgate.

Sororities and fraternities also produced much of the leadership in the rest of the Samford community. Greeks held the majority of leadership in SGA and participated in social, academic and honor organizations.

**"IFC and Panhellenic have a huge presence on Samford's campus, and many events would not happen without their continued support."**

Lauren Welty is a sophomore Alpha Delta Pi, the managing editor of the *Crimson*, president of the French club, an officer in Alpha Delta Pi, the secretary/treasurer of the Samford Advertising Federation and was a co-director of the 2005 Miss Samford pageant.

Welty said, "I like getting involved in many Samford organizations because I like contributing to the Samford community as well as working with as many Samford students as possible."

It might have been said before at Samford that Greek organizations only care about themselves, at Samford. However, the sororities and fraternities break the mold. They not only show support to each other, but Greeks at Samford show support to their school, community, and uphold the Christian values for which Samford stands. ♦





Left: Two Pi Kappa Phi members lend a helping hand by painting a Samford bathroom.

Below: Alpha Delta Pi girls display thier float at the Homecoming parade.





# Keeping a Greek Connection

By Jessica Casto

Greek life's not all fun and games. Most people don't consider the planning and behind the scenes work that goes into upholding Samford's Greek system. That's where the Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council come in.

The Panhellenic Council is the unifying and coordinating body of the seven national sororities on campus. The council is composed of women from each sorority that serve as representatives. Through teamwork and cooperation, Panhellenic strengthens the Greek community and allows for active student organizations to participate in numerous campus activities.

Each member strives to provide activities and programs to benefit sororities, the campus and the community.

The 2005 Panhellenic President Tara McCafferty said, "The success of the Panhellenic Council requires the support of each sorority and therefore develops unity among the individual organizations which strengthens the Greek community as a whole."

The Panhellenic Council is also responsible for promoting the scholarship, philanthropy and safety of each sorority. In addition, they coordinate recruitment in order to make it a fun and memorable experience for prospective Greek members.

"I have really enjoyed being able to give back to the organization that I have put so much into and that has given so much to

me. I really do love Greek life and being able to build the unity among all of the sororities," McCafferty said.

The other driving force behind Greek Life is the Interfraternity Council, which consists of representatives from Samford's six chartered fraternities. The purpose of the Council is to promote unity among the individual chapters, provide relations between the Greek Community and the University and to enforce rules and policies passed by the Council for the regulation of the fraternities. IFC also provides leadership and structured programs for fraternity growth and development.

The 2005 IFC President John Lucas said, "The 2005 IFC had a very productive year. We sought to foster the relationship between fraternities and our faculty advisors in hopes of promoting the relationship between Samford faculty and Greek life as well as the utilization of academic resources that our advisors possess. Our council left the year with the relationship between Greek life and the faculty as strong as ever as we made attempts to increase communication between our council and the Samford community." One of Panhellenic and IFC's biggest highlights of the year was the three-year Adopt-A-School partnership created with McElwain Elementary School.

"Over forty Greeks spent one hour each Thursday afternoon tutoring a child at

the school. Greeks unable to attend on Thursdays due to various conflicts helped by volunteering to paint and landscape the campus. Both children and tutors had a wonderful experience through this program, and the learning experience was dynamic in that the tutors took away just as much from the program as did the children. We hope to foster the relationship between Samford and McElwain Elementary in the coming years," Lucas said.

The Panhellenic Council also works along with IFC to sponsor projects and events such as Greek Weekend and educational programs such as the anti-hazing and alcohol awareness meetings.

This year's Greek Weekend consisted of a service project at the McElwain Center where students had the opportunity to paint and clean up classrooms, a concert given by the Jared Ashley Band on the quad and a DJ party at the Highland Golf Country Club.

Reflecting on this year's service, Lucas said, "Our council stands committed to our philanthropic mission by serving the Samford and Birmingham community in any way possible." ♦





Above left to right: The members of the Panhellenic Council.  
 (back row) Shelby Crowe, Sarah Wolf, Ashley Belser, Holly Jaye, Alex Maddox, Stephanie Allen.  
 (front row) Kate Medley, Emily Sparks, Lindsay Helmbock, Tara McCafferty, Ashley Finley

Right: Panhellenic president Tara McCafferty and IFC president John Lucas with Dr. Cortis.







## Lambda Chi

This spring marked another step forward in Lambda Chi's return to prominence following their one-year campus exodus: the first date party in the past two years.

Lambda Chi president Matt Francisco described the night with excitement. "This year's formal was a blast from the past. The brothers and their dates explored the all-but-forgotten Rio, a grand place on Valley Road usually accustomed to housing weddings and banquets that seemed trapped somewhere between disco and suede in 1972."

The night was filled with fun as the disco ball spun from the ceiling and the party hosts got their dancin' on. The guests enjoyed some fine food and the illuminated dance floor.

Francisco said, "Never was such a time had in Lambda Chi's illustrious history. No, that Friday night was one for the ages, the stuff that legends are made of. It gave hope for the future of Lambda Chi, and perhaps more importantly, it was proof for the brothers, new associates, dates and people throughout campus that Lambda Chi is again a viable force at Samford."

## Phi Mu

If Phi Mu had to choose one event to have again, the sisters would definitely vote on their formal that was held in the spring.

"Our 2006 Formal was the highlight of the semester," said social chair Alison Holmes. "The night was perfect and elegant as gorgeous Phi Mu's danced under a lighted tent."

The event was held at Gabrella Manor, an enchanting Spanish-styled home that was ideal for pictures. Spanish-styled desserts were stationed for leisurely indulging and a chocolate fountain entertained everyone and their taste buds as they dipped strawberries, pound cake and pretzels into the flowing fountain.

Holmes said, "The night flew by as we all danced to an awesome DJ under the stars."

## Pi Kapp

The brothers of Pi Kappa Phi always look forward to their annual crawfish boil. "It is undoubtedly one of our best parties," Horace Nix said.

The party begins in the afternoon and usually goes late into the night. This year, the guys decided to put a twist on the

party. The first half of the party was held in Bessemer at an alumnus's farm.

Nix said, "The first half of the party featured the Hog Mountain Lug Nuts band, and some of the best food you have ever tasted." The Rose Queen, Brother of the Year and Associate of the year were also announced at the party.

After the band finished, the second half of the party was moved to the Schaeffer Crawfish Boil. All of the brothers and their dates were given free tickets to the Saturday show and enjoyed the last half of the party watching the likes of Jason Mraz, Better Than Ezra, P.U.S.A., P.O.D. and Live.

Nix said, "This party is always the last one of the year and it's the best way to not only end the year but to say goodbye to the seniors as well."

## Sigma Chi

As many students already know, the brothers of Sigma Chi are famous for their weeklong philanthropic competition, known as Derby Days, held every year in April.

This year's events included an opening banquet where brothers were auctioned





Chi O



Sigma Nu



Zeta

off as honorary group members for the participants as well as a Scavenger Hunt all over the Birmingham area. Throughout the week girls competed in Penny Wars, Sign a Sig and a Skit Night.

Sigma Chi also co-sponsored the LifeSouth blood drive in which over sixty participants donated blood. In addition, over a hundred Derby Days participants helped to clean-up McElwain Elementary at the end of the week.

Sigma Chi president Rhett Long said, "Along with the other activities, new events such as "Capture a Coach" and the "Run for the Roses" 5K really brought the entire campus to life and participation reached an all time high." Field Day marked an exciting finish to the week as well as a party featuring the Ray Stephenson Band.

Over the week, the brothers of Sigma Chi raised nearly \$12,000 for the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. "Derby Days continues to be a fun and great tradition on

campus," Long said.

## Sigma Nu

On April 8, 2006 the brothers of Sigma Nu held their annual "White Rose" Formal. According to the brothers, this event is rooted deep in tradition and has spanned over 125 years.

This year the party was held at the prestigious Summit Club in downtown Birmingham atop the Am-South Herbert Plaza building. With the Birmingham skyline in the background, the brothers and their dates dined on an elegant buffet followed by desserts and coffee.

After the announcement of the Fraternity Honors and the 2006 Sweetheart, the party began. For the next three hours, everyone was entertained by GINO, a 70's band from Nashville, TN.

According to President Daniel Crane, everyone had a wonderful time. "The White Rose Formal was a big hit among the brothers and their dates and everyone is looking forward to a great formal in 2007,"

Crane said.

## Zeta

Every girl in Zeta Tau Alpha had heard about the legendary paint party thrown three years ago. Although only senior Zetas experienced it, their fond memories were passed down through the generations, and the girls decided to host yet another painting extravaganza.

This year, the evening was aimed at being highly active, competitive and messy with different teams competing at different paint-involved events. Some events included tug-of-war with a paint mosh-pit, paint your own Mona Lisa, volleyball on a slippery tarp full of paint and an obstacle course consisting of paint balloons, a tunnel of paint and a slip n' slide.

The competition ended with a dance competition, the announcement of the winning team (the Red Team), dancing to a DJ and warming up around the bonfire.

Social chair Annie Murphree said, "Even though the Red Team may have dominated, everyone walked away feeling like wet, dripping, colorful winners."



Many different aspects are included in Greek Life, such as service and scholarship, but students are also involved in their fraternity or sorority for the social atmosphere or the parties. Here is a rundown of some of the major Greek events held on and off campus this year.

# Parties

by Jessica Castro

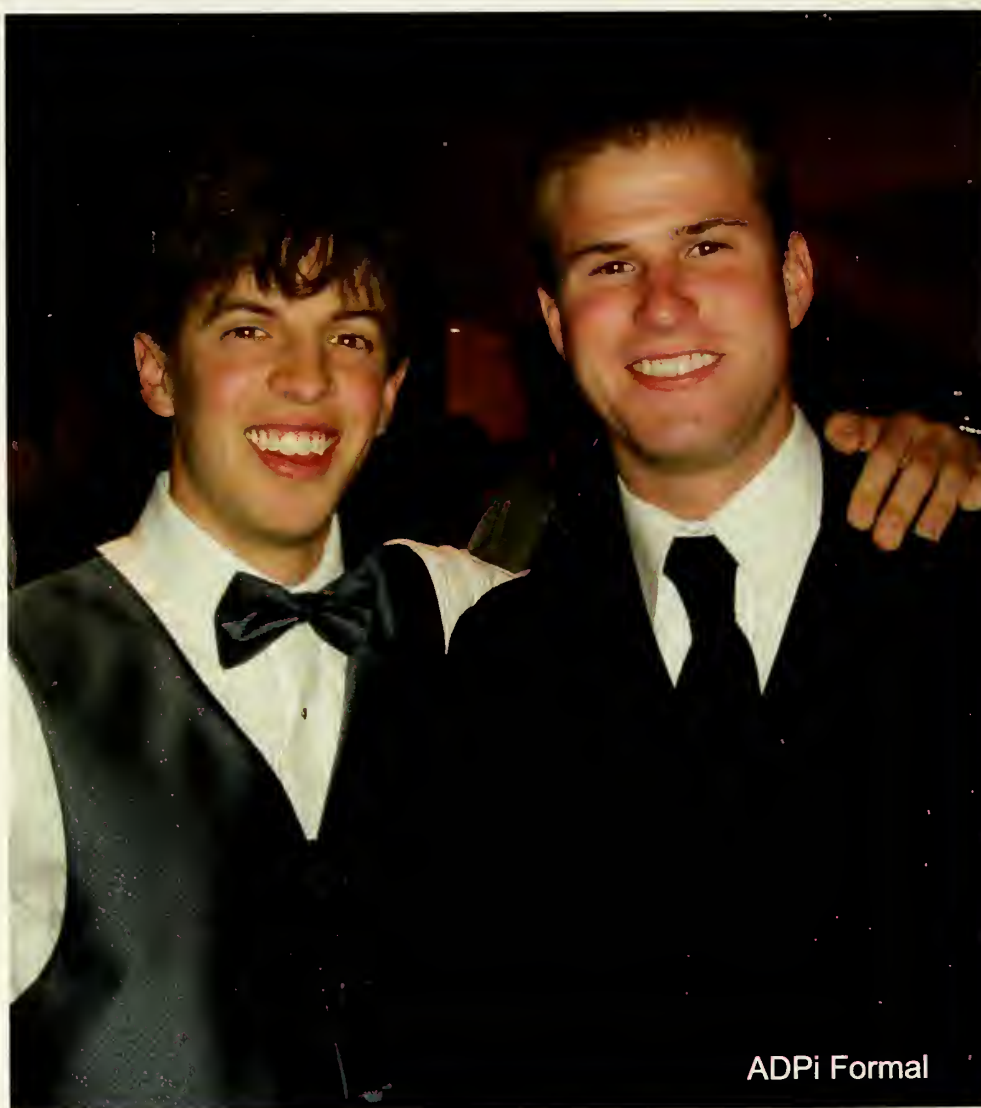
## ADPi

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi said their most exciting event this year was the interaction and activity provided by the "Capture the Flag" mixer with the brothers of Sigma Chi on March 28.

For the second time, the brothers of Sigma Chi and the sisters of ADPi found themselves at Camp Hargis under the starlit sky, with the smell of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs in the air.

After digesting the meal, guys and girls divided among two teams: freshmen and seniors vs. sophomores and juniors. Once the horn blew, signaling the start of the game, sisters and brothers alike were forced to form alliances out of a shared competitive and friendly spirit. After tromping through the woods by moonlight and strategically plotting detailed plans of action, the juniors and sophomores finally succeeded in capturing the enemy flag.

"The most unique and enjoyable facet of this particular mixer involved the true 'mixing' that actually took place," ADPi president Katelyn Williams said. "Both organizations were encouraged to interact in a way that accomplished a common goal. The loose bonds bridging the gaps in the Greek community were strengthened."



ADPi Formal





# of the Year

## AKA

In the spring, the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha hosted their annual Skee Week. President Marquita Hall said, "We host an event everyday on campus during this week. Some of them are fun, others are informative and we usually raise money for our philanthropy."

This year, Skee Week's activities included a canned-food drive for a local homeless shelter, a bake sale and a night of dollar bowling.

"The week is a time for students and community members to interact with the chapter and hopefully gain something beneficial," Hall said.

## AOPi

Every four years, Alpha Omicron Pi hosts a Red Rose Formal for all current and past chapter members. In December of 2005, the ladies of AOPi said they were excited to host their event at the Donnelly House in Birmingham.

"The AOPi sisters enjoyed a great night of dancing and socializing. It was also really special to spend time with our alumni," AOPi president Kathryn Lamb said. "The AOPi Red Rose Formal was definitely the event of the year."

## Delta Sigma Theta

This year, the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta had a chance to give back to those in need. On August 29, 2005, the category 3 hurricane hit Louisiana. As a result of the

devastating effects, the ladies of the Sigma Eta Chapter decided to raise money for the victims of Katrina.

"We had a car wash one Saturday and raised over \$150," Delta Sigma Theta president Lindsey Harris said. "Service to the community is our mission, and this was a very rewarding event just knowing that we could help those in need."



## Chi O

According to the sisters, Chi Omega closed out 2005 with a party unlike any other their chapter had ever seen. On November 18, four buses of sisters and their dates traveled to Atlanta for Chi O's annual formal.

A dinner was waiting for everyone once they arrived at the 755 Club, located atop the Braves' stadium, Turner Field.

Chi O president Katie Bondurant said, "Everyone danced throughout the night while also taking in the amazing views of the extensive stadium. The event was one that everyone who attended will always remember."





# Alpha Delta Pi

Alpha Delta Pi proudly supports the Ronald McDonald House, an organization for families with critically ill children to stay at during hospital visits, through providing supplies, cooking and cleaning and helping with fundraising. The Kappa chapter plays host to two annual events: the Lion Share Golf Tournament and Bingo Night, both of which contribute their proceeds to RMH. ADPis are involved with organizations across campus, from Student Ministries to organizations across campus, from Student Ministries to Samford Ambassadors to athletics to the music department. The motto of Alpha Delta Pi, "We Live for Each Other" is expressed as the sisters of Kappa desire to have an impact on the lives of each other, Samford's campus and the entire community.





Above: ADPi girls pose for a group picture on Bid Day.

# A Home Away From Home

by Jessica Casto

For the girls of Alpha Delta Pi, the Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home." The Ronald McDonald House Charities is ADPi's philanthropy which serves as a resting place for families with critically ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals.

Founded in 1974, there are now more than 245 Ronald McDonald Houses in 26 countries. The Ronald McDonald House provides a temporary residence where family members can eat, sleep, relax and find support from other families in similar situations. Families are asked to donate, on average, \$5 to \$20 per day. If that isn't possible, their stay is free.

"The Ronald McDonald House is a home. It isn't somewhere we just send our money off to, but it's a community for people to live in who are going through the same situations," said recruitment vice president Lauren Welty. "For us, the Ronald McDonald House is a place where we can make an impact on individual people. We have the opportunity to cook meals, clean it and help raise money to make improvements on their house. As someone who has had friends and family members struggle with long-term illnesses, I know firsthand the impact that coming home from the hospital to a warm meal has. We are influencing people, one life at a time."

In addition to using their hands to prepare dinner for those staying at the house, the girls also used their hands to clean. On April 22 and May 6, ADPi held two spring cleaning days at the Ronald McDonald House. During this spring cleaning, sisters vacuumed, dusted, planted flowers and pulled weeds.

ADPi also helped raise money for the house with their second annual Bingo Night in the caf and a charity golf tournament in the fall. The proceeds raised from both events went to the Ronald McDonald House. The girls also collect pop tabs throughout the year and donate them to the house in effort to raise extra pocket change.

ADPi president Katelyn Williams said, "Care and concern for philanthropy marks one of the distinguishing facets of ADPi. Our involvement with the Ronald McDonald House of Birmingham allows for each sister to grow

**"Care and concern for philanthropy marks one of the distinguishing facets of ADPi."**

in knowledge and concern for the world around her. It is important that we as an organization contribute to the community.

Without doing so, our purpose as an organization would become significantly less substantial. ADPi's philanthropic events over the past year have ranged in purpose and method. Whether it is sponsoring a golf tournament to raise monetary support or cooking dinner for the families at RMH, ADPi has worked hard to make a difference." ♦



# Alpha Kappa Alpha

In 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority became America's first Greek-letter organization established by Black college girls. Its roots date back to Howard University, Washington, D.C., where the idea was conceived by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle of St. Louis, Missouri. She viewed the sorority as an instrument for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life by providing mental stimulation through interaction with friends and associates. Through the years, however, Alpha Kappa Alpha's function has become more complex. After her incorporation as a perpetual body in 1913, Alpha Kappa Alpha gradually branched out and became the channel through which selected college-trained women improved the socioeconomic conditions in their city, state, nation and world.





## Service is in Their Blood

By Laura Dozier

Being in a sorority not only gives girls an opportunity to form lasting friendships, but it also allows them to make a difference in their community.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of women that desire to expand their way of thinking and widen their perspective on the world. She has distinction, drive, integrity and the ability to develop emotional and lasting bonds with women that have a common interest," member Melanie Hunter said.

For Alpha Kappa Alpha, supporting the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) is their chance to change the lives of those in their communities.

"We raise money through a number of programs that we sponsor each year and give monetary donations," AKA President Marquita Hall said. "We participate in the annual March of Dimes walk that raises money for sickle cell research, and we distribute general information about Sickle Cell to inform the public about the disease." They also arranged a table and display board on campus including sickle cell information, which allowed students to donate money to sickle cell research.

Another program AKA sponsors each year is "Skee Week," which took place during the spring semester. Each day of "Skee Week" offered a different event ranging from the fun to informative and most raised money

for SCDAA. This year AKA held a canned food drive for a local homeless shelter as part of the festivities.

**"Knowing that you have impacted someone's life by providing service is something remarkable."**

AKA also participates in "Buckle Up Bulldogs." In October the girls of AKA stood near the stop signs on Samford's campus and asked drivers if they were wearing their seatbelts. "If the drivers are wearing seatbelts, we give them a Lifesavers candy, and if not we give them a Dum Dum pop," Hall said.

The girls also take part in the Susan Komen walk during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness month, to raise awareness for breast cancer. They also distributed information on breast cancer around campus and held a tea to get people thinking about the disease. "We invite a breast cancer survivor who discusses her experience, preventative measures, etc.," Hall said.

Throughout all these activities the girls of AKA said they enjoyed giving service to the community. "Service is in the heart," member Lakhedra Robinson said. Member Chitra Kirpalani said, "Knowing that you have impacted someone's life by providing service is something remarkable." ♦



# Alpha Omicron Pi

Alpha Omicron Pi is an international girls fraternity promoting friendship for a lifetime, inspiring academic excellence and lifelong learning and developing leadership skills through service to the fraternity and community. Over the past few years, AOPi has experienced several changes such as joining the other Greek organizations on West Campus. Arthritis Research continues to be a significant aspect of AOPi as the sisters strive to support the Arthritis Foundation in any way possible.





Left: The girls of AOPi gathered together after a chapter meeting.

# Volunteering for Arthritis Victims

by Jessica Casto

Through the years, the girls of Alpha Omicron Pi have been proud to support Arthritis Research and Juvenile Arthritis Research as their philanthropy. Throughout the school year, the members participated in many activities to help raise money for arthritis research and served in many different areas within the community.

AOPi adopted the Arthritis Foundation in 1967. Since then, over one million dollars has been raised by AOPis to help researchers find a cure for the crippling disease that, so often, targets women. Chapters also donate time to countless local community projects to benefit children, the elderly and those less fortunate.

The Samford Rho Delta Chapter of AOPi said they were honored to volunteer and participate in several activities throughout the year here in Birmingham.

AOPi's 2005 Philanthropy Chair Susan Miller said, "In the fall, we have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Spaghetti is donated from local restaurants such as Carrabba's and Olive Garden, and we sell the dinners for \$5 to students and faculty on campus. We deliver the dinners to everyone or arrange for them to pick it up. All of the money that we raise goes directly to our national philanthropy."

Later in the fall, AOPi also participated in the Jingle Bell Run. "The local Birmingham Arthritis Foundation puts on a 5K run in December," Miller said. "We volunteer at the run and have some girls actually run in the race."

"We help with registration, the children's area, food and drinks, handing out t-shirts, putting up tables and signs and raising money. This is just one event that directly helps adults and children with arthritis here in Birmingham."

The members of AOPi continued their service into the spring with events such as the Make-A-Wish-Walk and the Strike-Out Arthritis softball tournament.

"For the Make-A-Wish Walk, we signed our chapter up as a team to walk and raised money," Miller said. "We also held the first annual Strike-Out Arthritis softball tournament with Sigma Nu this year. It is a charity event that is open to Samford softball teams as well as the local Birmingham community."

While AOPi officially supports Arthritis, Juvenile Arthritis and related diseases as their international philanthropy, members were also encouraged to partake in other various

**"For the Make-A-Wish Walk, we signed our chapter up as a team to walk and raised money."**

community service activities.

The AOPis at Samford worked with the local Arthritis Foundation here in Birmingham. Miller said one of the chapter's favorite events was held just across the street at Brookwood Mall. "

"We volunteer at the Arthritis Walk that is put on by the Arthritis Foundation in the spring," Miller said. "Like the Jingle Bell Run, we help by setting-up for the walk and by raising money."

"Arthritis is a very serious health condition, and we're just glad to do our part in supporting the research to help find a cure," Miller said. ♦





# Chi Omega

Chi Omega is a girls social organization that strives to hold to the values and beliefs of its founders as well as the Samford community. Chi Omega seeks to achieve this through the six purposes of friendship, high standards of personnel, sincere learning and creditable scholarship, participation in campus activities, career development and community service. With our philanthropies, we are able to lend support to both the Big Oak Girls Ranch as well as the Make-A-Wish foundation. Through each of these ideals, Chi Omega hopes to promote integrity, friendships and well-roundedness for each member.





Above: Chi O's old and new members gather together to celebrate the beginning of a new year.

# Making Connections Near and Far

by Melissa Poole

Sororities are not all about sisterhood and socials. For the girls of Chi Omega, their sorority helps them become involved in the national Make-A-Wish foundation as well as the Big Oak Girls' Ranch.

Make-A-Wish is a national organization responsible for working to make the dreams of children with life threatening illnesses come true. Chi O has been involved with Make-A-Wish for years and in the fall, the Samford chapter of Chi O raised \$7,000 for Make-A-Wish. Chi O desired to do something that involved the community and the university, so they sold 700 discount cards featuring special deals from local stores and restaurants.

Chi O witnessed the fruits of their labor

**"My friend from Big Oak has blessed my life in so many ways, and I am so thankful to Chi O that we were able to meet."**

when the \$7,000 they raised was used to make a dream come true for a child in the spring.

"It is exciting for our girls and reminds them of why we do fundraisers when we get to see the smile on a child's face that has received a wish from Make-A-Wish," junior Chi O president Katy Anderson said. This past year, Chi Omega also participated in Walk for Wishes sponsored by the Make-A-Wish organization and was

privileged enough to meet the families that had been granted wishes.

"The families were so grateful to the people who had made their children happy. They couldn't stop smiling and saying thank you," junior vice president Lynn Storey, vice-president of Chi O said. The Samford Chi O chapter also supported a local Philanthropy known as The Big Oak Girls' Ranch located in Springville, Ala. The Chi O sisters received hands on experience and created special bonds with the girls at the ranch.

Junior nursing major Kerri Buck talked with a girl from the ranch several times a week and visited as much as she could. "My friend from Big Oak has blessed my life in so many ways and I am so thankful to Chi O that we were able to meet and develop a friendship," Buck said.

Chi O also hosted several events with the ranch throughout the year. The Chi O sisters invited the girls from the ranch to come to their chapter room to cook and watch the 2005 Step Sing show. Also, Chi O ventured to the ranch for a pizza party and game night with the girls and their house parents.

"It was a lot of fun just hanging out and getting to know the girls by spending time with them," Storey said. ♦





**McElwain**

**Elementary**

Established 1899



# Delta Sigma Theta

The Sigma Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was chartered by twelve collegiate women on March 18, 1995. It is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea. The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political awareness and involvement.



# Contributing to the Community

by Laura Dozier

Delta Sigma Theta has been very involved this year in supporting various activities at Samford and across the country. To them being in a sorority isn't only about the bonds of sisterhood, but also about the feeling they receive from helping others.

"We try to do a little bit of everything," Delta Sigma Theta president, Lindsey Harris said. The sisters of the Sigma Eta chapter of Delta Sigma Theta promote their own physical and mental health while also giving to others.

This year, the sisters held a local carwash to raise funds for people affected by Hurricane Katrina. "We raised over \$250 for the hurricane Katrina victims," Delta Sigma Theta member Nivea King said.

They also helped children in the local Birmingham area. "We go to schools and tutor," Harris said. They volunteered at Smithfield Community Center, and they also participated in McElwain Elementary's school clean-up day.

Another way the sisters helped others this year was by participating in the Susan G. Komen Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness in October.

Along with helping others, the sisters also focus on the lives of their members. They frequently participated in "Dancing with Jam's" exercise class at Gold's Gym. They also attended a regional conference in Tuscaloosa. "We attend conferences about different things," Harris said.

By helping others and supporting each other, the sisters of the Sigma Eta chapter of Delta Sigma Theta strive to improve their community and themselves.



Photo Credit & Page Design: Nick Holdbrooks





# Lambda Chi Alpha

Founded by Warren A. Cole on Nov. 2, 1999, Lambda Chi Alpha is now one of the largest men's general fraternities in America with more than 227,000 initiated members. The fraternity consists of a unique and unified band of brothers as they spur one another onward towards deeper faith, bolder leadership and brighter futures.





# Wheels of Love

By Maegan Wilson

To support the community, the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha helped raise money for Kid One Transport. "Kid One is a Birmingham based organization that helps underprivileged kids obtain transportation to doctors and hospitals," Lambda Chi vice president John Stegemann said. Lambda Chi has partnered with Kid One since 2003, when the organization was officially adopted as their philanthropy.

The fraternity organized two fundraisers during the year. In the fall, the brothers held a small fundraiser at their house on Shelburne Lane. During finals week in December, students were charged to take swings at Stegemann's old car to help relieve stress and raise money for Kid One Transport. Students paid \$1 for a single swing or \$5 to take as many swings as they wanted for 30 seconds.

"An ax did the most damage, but people used a bat, chair, bike, and rocks, too," Stegemann said.

In the spring, Lambda Chi also held a four-on-four volleyball tournament called the Spring Classic at their house to raise money. Anyone or any organization was welcome to enter the tournament for an entry fee. "The day-long tournament included food, t-shirts, prizes for the

winners, and everyone's favorite, a waterslide on the hill our house sits on," Stegemann said. Lambda Chi got the community involved by obtaining corporate sponsors for the tournament. "This is where most of the money we raised came from," Stegemann said.

**"An ax did the most damage, but people used a bat, chair, bike and rocks, too."**

The fraternity also volunteered 100 hours of service to help out with some of Kid One's events such as Word of Wheels and the 5K Mercedes Marathon.

As vice president, Stegemann is in charge of Lambda Chi's philanthropy. "My favorite part about working with Kid One is knowing that we are making a difference in the community around us and not some far off place. Healthcare is extremely important for many of these families that don't always have the opportunity for the best care," Stegemann said.

Fifth year senior fitness and health promotion major Paul Early enjoys supporting Kid One as well. "They are always excited to work with us and are very friendly at all joint events." ♦

Top: Teams compete in the Spring Classic tournament to raise money for Kid One Transport.

Bottom: Richard Riley serves the ball over the net.





# Phi Mu

Phi Mu was founded in 1852, making it the second oldest sorority in history. The sisters work with the Children's Miracle Network by visiting the hospital and raising money through fundraisers. The sisters of Phi Mu live by the words "love, honor, and truth" as they strive to help out in the community as well as on campus.





Far left: The sisters of Phi Mu.

Left: Rachel Tarter spends time getting to know some of the kids at the Children's Hospital.

# Aiding in Miracles

by Melissa Poole

When you ask a Samford Phi Mu what makes her proud to be in the sorority, she could have many answers. More than likely, however, her answer will have something to do with their vast successes in philanthropic work. The Samford chapter of Phi Mu works with Children's Miracle Network, which is an organization that raises money for the Children's Hospital.

Samford's Phi Mu chapter sends three or four sisters to the Children's Hospital every Tuesday to play with the children who are patients. They spend time with the children and take them to the Sunshine Room, which is a game room designed to distract them from their pain. By playing games and reading books, the girls try to make the children forget they are sick.

"We take crafts to do with the children but can also wind up just goofing off or playing video games," junior journalism major Laura Dozier said. Phi Mu also hosted two major events to raise money for Children's Miracle Network.

In the fall semester, Phi Mu hosted a 5K race called Children's Miracle Run. The race was held at Heardmont Park and consisted of a competitive 5K race divided into age groups, and a one mile fun run for the kids.

Phi Mu hosted 250 runners at their Children's Miracle run and raised about \$37,000 for CMN. Each participant received a t-shirt, and Phi Mu awarded prizes to the winners of the race.

"We had a great turnout, and we were thrilled everyone seemed to have a fabulous time," sophomore Phi Mu philanthropy chair Megan Wilson said.

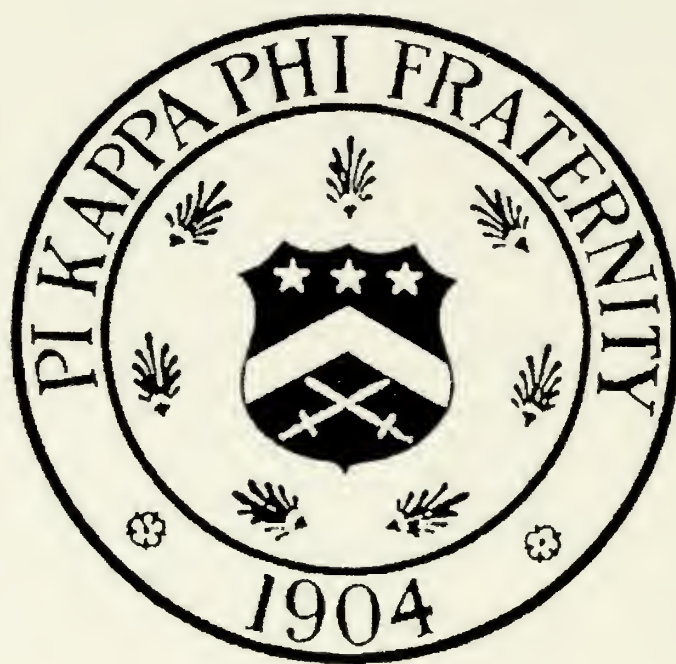
In the fall, Phi Mu and Sigma Chi sponsored a trick-or-treat for pocket change event. Together, they raised more than \$2,500 for the Children's Miracle Network, which also allowed them to spend time with another Greek organization on campus.

**"We're lucky to have the opportunity to work with kids in Birmingham"**

On April 1, Phi Mu hosted their second major event, a city-wide car wash. The Phi Mu car wash was located at Wal-Mart and Sam's. This year, the girls wanted to make sure more students participated by holding the car wash on Lakeshore Drive. The money from this fundraiser was also donated to the Children's Miracle Network.

The girls' hard work paid off when Phi Mu was announced as the second chapter in the nation and first in fundraising for their philanthropy. Overall, Phi Mu raised \$39,000 in the fall of 2005 alone.

"It's a great opportunity to work with a local philanthropy," Dozier said. "We're lucky to have the opportunity to work with kids in Birmingham instead of sending our money somewhere and not knowing how it's spent." ♦





# Pi Kappa Phi

## Pushing for a Cause

by Jessica Casto

Remember when you were a little kid and your mom always told you not to push people? Well, the boys of Pi Kappa Phi didn't listen very well and have been pushing people since 1977. However, they have an excuse, and it's for a good cause.

Push America was founded by Thomas H. Sayre in 1977 as an outreach project of Pi Kapp. This organization strives to help both people with paraplegic disabilities and the members that are lending the help as well. Pi Kapp accomplishes this goal through three main areas of service: raising disability awareness, fundraising and volunteering.

"Volunteerism is the most important part of Push America and is done through each individual chapter of Pi Kappa Phi," 2005 philanthropy chair Trey Nix said. "This area of focus allows each chapter to personally experience Push America's motto 'Leadership Through Service.'"

Various programs Push America offers include push weekends and push camps, which are national service projects. The "Journey of Hope" and "Gear Up Florida" are bike rides, which also help raise money for the various projects that Push America sponsors.

The Alpha Eta chapter of Pi Kapp at Sanford has specifically helped Push America in many different ways.

"Every year, we push a wheel chair around campus for seventy-two continuous hours in order to raise money for Push America," Nix said.

The Alpha Eta chapter has also, within the last year, held a car wash and a brotherhood auction in order to raise money for Push America. This year, the guys raised over \$1,500 through the auction. Several brothers were auctioned for over \$100 for their services, which generally include washing cars, cleaning house and raking yards.

**"Every year, we push a wheel chair around campus for seventy-two continuous hours"**

"I've always been a huge fan of the auction," senior and head auctioneer John Crist said. "The people that donate to Push America actually see some gain on their part. It's not just throwing money into a basket, but it's acquiring the goods and services of Pi Kapp."

One future project that the guys of Pi Kapp look forward to is building wheel chair ramps for the disabled in order to make their homes more accessible.

Pi Kapp prides itself in having its own outreach project and is currently the only fraternity in the world that personally created its own philanthropy.



# Sigma Chi

Sigma Chi's mission is to be the preeminent collegiate leadership and development organization, living Sigma Chi's core values. As a brotherhood it is a goal to surround each other with support, accountability and commitment to friendship, justice and learning. Continually pursuing these ideals, the brothers strive to challenge each other so that the period of growth they undergo during their undergraduate years is advanced by their lessons in Sigma Chi. As their university experience ends, they hope that each brother will graduate with a deep sense of personal responsibility, high ambition and preparation for the future.





Above: Several members of Sigma Chi gather together after a baseball game.

Above right: A Sigma Chi brother carries a heavy load while helping at McElwain Elementary School.



## Getting Down to Business

By Melissa Poole

The brothers of the Sigma Chi fraternity like to get down to business when it comes to supporting their fraternity's philanthropies. Sigma Chi sponsored many activities and events throughout the year to raise money for the Children's Hospital and the Exceptional and Lakeshore foundations.

In the fall, Sigma Chi participated in a trick-or-treat for pocket change mixer with Samford's Phi Mu chapter. The two groups trick-or-treated for change on Halloween and raised \$3,000 for the Children's Hospital. "It was a proud event for us, and we enjoyed being able to work with another Greek organization on campus to raise money for this worthy organization," junior philanthropy chair Ross Stone said. As an entrance fee to their Christmas party, the brothers asked members to bring a toy collecting over 100 toys for the hospital.

Sigma Chi also supported other Samford organizations. They donated the \$1,000 they charged for entrance to their Foam Party to the Samford Student Ministries and entered eight brothers into Alpha Delta Pi's golf tournament for their Ronald McDonald House philanthropy.

Their manual labor efforts also extend beyond Birmingham. For fall break, 20 Sigma Chi's traveled to parts of La. and Miss. to help with relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

The brothers participated in various activities throughout the year on a regular basis. Every Tuesday and Thursday Sigma Chi sent two or three brothers to volunteer at the Lakeshore Foundation, and every Monday several volunteered at the Exceptional Foundation. "I really enjoyed being able to work with the great people we meet at the Exceptional Foundation, they make me smile every time I am there," junior Blake Eckert said.

The brothers also participated in the McElwain Elementary School tutoring program sponsored by IFC and Panhellenic councils, volunteering 123 hours with this tutoring program as well as doing yard work and painting. The brothers also brought joy into elderly ladies' lives by hosting a prom at the Fairhaven retirement home.

None of these events compare in the Sigma Chi's hearts to their annual Derby Days they host every spring. Derby Days is a week of competition events in which all the sororities and independent ladies compete. The events range from skits, to decorating the house, to field day and penny wars.

Sigma Chi is very proud of its philanthropic record. "We are proud of the fact that our philanthropies are the top priority of our organization," senior Sigma Chi president Josh Williams said. ♦



# Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon is dedicated to building balanced leaders. The brothers strive to set themselves apart by exercising their bodies and minds while preparing for the work-place. The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon are determined to achieve the highest goals academically as well as remain involved in the community. They are a close group, well equipped to help those in need, but they also know how to have a good time. Each day they prepare themselves to be the leaders for tomorrow.





## Supporting the Efforts of Others

By Melissa Poole

Even though the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon don't have their own philanthropy, they still support causes they feel are important by contributing to other organizations' philanthropies. They helped Zeta Tau Alpha with "Race for the Cure" and donated a portion of the proceeds collected at a mixer they held with Zeta. "We love being able to help a fellow organization out and support their cause," senior and Sig Ep president Kenny Kell said.

The brothers of Sig Ep also participated in many of Samford's philanthropic events. They helped with Mercedes Marathon and the Old Howard 100 bike ride, which raises money for Habitat for Humanity. "Staying involved with the school allows us to feel more connected to the university we are proud to attend," sophomore Adam Oliver said.

Sig Ep is also proud to be a part of IFC and Panhellenic's McElwain tutoring program. They send brothers every Thursday with the Samford group that tutors the children after school. Sig Ep has also helped with several school clean up efforts.

"Since we don't have our own personal philanthropy, McElwain is an on-going opportunity for us to lend a hand and be able to see improvements over time and keep up with people we are meeting through the school," Oliver said.

**"We do make a concerted effort to be involved in the community at large and are in search of a local organization to adopt."**

Whether the brothers are helping another Greek organization on campus or participating in Samford's philanthropic events, the brothers of Sig Ep are willing to help. Kell said they strive to make a difference in the community and can't wait to find a philanthropy they can throw their energy into and continue their passion for philanthropic work.

"We do make a concerted effort to be involved in the community at large and are in search of a local philanthropic organization to adopt," Kell said. ♦



# Sigma Nu

The Iota Chapter of Sigma Nu was founded by Benjamin Abrams, Luther Hill, John Powell, Thomas Luckey and William Reynolds in 1879 at Howard College in Marion, Ala. At the time, it was the fifth fraternity established on Howard's campus. Sigma Nu strives to develop ethical leaders inspired by the principles of love, honor and truth. It also helps foster the personal growth of each man's mind, heart, and character as well as perpetuates lifelong friendships and commitment to the fraternity.





Far left: Sigma Nu brothers pose before their annual softball game, which raises money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Left: The brothers gave up their Saturday to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

# Helping Hands

by Maegan Wilson

The brothers of Sigma Nu don't have idle hands. Instead, they have helping hands by contributing their time and energy to the Helping Hands Initiative. "It is pretty much just a way of saying do as much as you can and help whom ever needs it," Sigma Nu philanthropy chair Ike Baker said.

This year, the fraternity offered their helping hands and teamed up with St. Jude's Hospital, which treats children with a wide variety of cancer. In the fall, the brothers held a sorority-only flag football tournament entitled the "SigmaNusball" to raise money for the hospital.

"The way we raised money was by getting the teams that participated this year to write letters to people they knew and alumni of their sororities to ask for donations," Baker said.

Although the tournament turned out well, it was not everything Baker hoped it would be. "It was kind of a rocky start this year, and I couldn't do everything I had wanted to do. But hopefully we will have everything set up for next year, and it will turn into a huge ordeal that raises a lot of money."

A child from St. Jude's was supposed to come to the tournament and talk before it started, but it didn't go as planned. "The children around Birmingham were too sick to make it. It's really sad," Baker said. Ultimately, Sigma Nu helped raise over

\$2,000 for St. Jude this year. "It's a good start I think, but we expect to raise at least 10 times that in the upcoming year," Baker said.

The fraternity also participated in Habitat for Humanity projects. The brothers volunteered well over 300 hours at various houses around Birmingham. "We hope that this will be a huge part of our fraternity for the future," Baker said.

**"It was a great experience and the children loved it."**

In the spring, Sigma Nu held a softball tournament to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "Last year we raised \$1,700 off of dues to play and from going around and asking for money from businesses. It was such a success we decided to set it up again this year," Baker said. The tournament welcomed all teams including the Homewood Police Department and various schools around the state.

During the year, a few of the brothers worked with Greek Life and tutored children at McElwain Elementary School. They went once a week and had as many as three children to help with their homework and look after. The brothers helped paint some of the classrooms and cleaned up the school grounds. "It was a great experience, and the children loved it," Baker said.





# Zeta Tau Alpha

With more than 183,000 initiated members and 250 chartered collegiate chapters, the Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity has a longstanding history of excellence. The first group to have a national housing program, the Zeta Tau Alpha Housing Corporation now has a net worth of over \$19 million. Eighty-five of the national Zeta chapters have average GPAs of 3.0 and above. Zeta is known for its commitment to excellence in scholarship and housing, but Zeta also shares a passion for service. Since trademarking the "Think Pink" logo in February of 2004, Zeta has built upon national business partnerships, such as Yoplait yogurt's "Save Lids to Save Lives" Campaign. Zeta also cosponsors the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Survivor Recognition Program.





Above: The girls of Zeta show off their spicy costumes right before their Step Sing show, "Spice Up Your Life."

# The *Pink* Fight

by Maegan Wilson

Pink is not just a color for the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha, it's a platform. It's a platform fighting against cancer. Since 1992, Zeta has raised money for the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation.

In the fall, the sorority took part in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, where breast cancer survivors and their supporters either ran or walked in the race or cheered for participants. "This is one of my favorite experiences with Zeta," philanthropy chair Mary Catherine Stone said.

The sisters also helped bring smiles to breast cancer patients at the women's hospital in Birmingham providing baskets filled with "Think Pink" ribbons, shower cards, t-shirts and brochures.

This year, Zeta broadened its focus to include other outlets of support such as the National Football League and Yoplait Yogurt. "Since the partnership with the NFL started, Zeta has increased its influence to working with over 12 NFL teams for the 'Think Pink' Campaign, reaching about 50,000 football fans across the country," Stone said.

Zeta also partnered with Yoplait in their mission to "Save Lids to Save Lives" by collecting the lids to yogurt containers. Yoplait has raised over \$14 million to support breast cancer awareness and prevention.

In the past, the sisters have hosted a basketball tournament for their spring fundraiser, but this year the sisters

organized and hosted a Mr. Samford Pageant. "It isn't one of those womanless beauty contests, but it's similar to pageants like 'Big Man On Campus' contests held at a lot of other schools," Stone said.

**"We feel so closely connected to these amazing women and their families that we can't help but want to contribute to their cause."**

The guys were judged on talent, interview questions, formal wear and their ability to have fun in front of a crowd. With a \$50 entrance fee for each participant sponsored by a fraternity, sorority or group of friends and a \$5 entrance fee for audience members, the program proved to be a successful fundraiser.

Because Zeta is so committed to their philanthropy, they have made contributions of up to \$18,000 in the past. This has helped secure their national position as one of the top chapters in the country.

"I think that the reason we love our philanthropy so much is that we have all in some way, directly or indirectly, been affected by someone with cancer," Stone said. "When we go to the Race for the Cure in the fall, we see countless best cancer survivors who have been through unimaginable pain and hardship. We feel so closely connected to these amazing women and their families that we can't help but want to contribute to their cause."









# Compete

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**com·pet·ed, com·pet·ing, com·petes**

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# The Team Behind the Team

By Jena Hippensteel

Not every student was born to lace up cleats or associate their name with a number. The Dog Pound gave students the opportunity to get involved with sporting events without putting on a jersey. Parents and opposing teams saw the support for athletes as a special section was roped off for the Dog Pound at games. "The Dog Pound gave us [Samford] a home field advantage," director of Promotions and Campus Recreation Grant Lyons said.

As the official booster club for athletics, the Dog Pound is dedicated to lifting the spirits of athletes. The organization started in 2001 when a small group of dedicated, enthusiastic students joined together to cheer for sports teams. With matching t-shirts and jubilant voices, the club continues to encourage all players to push harder for the win.

This year, the Dog Pound increased student involvement in sports, created a fun and exciting atmosphere in the stands, provided new social opportunities for those interested in sports and represented the school with integrity and sportsmanship.

Every student had the opportunity to join the Dog Pound by signing up either online

or in the athletic department. "I liked the idea of joining a student-only club and participating in athletics as a fan. I love watching sports so I thought I would really enjoy being part of the Dog Pound," sophomore Dog Pound vice president Emily Goette said.

A ten dollar fee ensured a spot in the club, a t-shirt, free food and discounts at different places in Birmingham. Each member also received newsletters and was eligible for special giveaways and promotions.

The club kept running smoothly because of the combined efforts of President Gavin Mayo, Vice President Goette and Marketing Director Josh Wiggins.

During the Homecoming football game, the name of the student section was announced. The Red Sea was the new section for all Samford sports. For basketball, t-shirts were simple with "The Red Sea" slapped across the front of the red fabric and "Fear the Window" on the back.

Just like the Dog Pound, gifts were plentiful. The group was free to join during the basketball season with t-shirts, Dawg Rags and a roped off area in the stands

just for members. Other benefits were given throughout the school year at all the athletic events.

The name was chosen from a number of options submitted by students at the beginning of the year. As the replacement for the Dog Pound, the Red Sea's goals mimic the old group's. The section was made to create an atmosphere where people, especially students, could enjoy at games while also helping support the teams and increase school pride.

Red Sea president Gavin Mayo said, "Most sports teams will tell you that they feed off of the crowd's energy, and this was designed to create that." ♦







Left: Members of the Red Sea cheer the Bulldogs to victory.

Directly below: Spike gets the crowd excited for the big game.

Below: Samford students yell for a touchdown in the Dog Pound section of the stadium.







The cheerleaders pump up the crowd at a basketball game.

Far Right: The girls cheer on the football team and encourage the crowd to join in.



# A Year of Change

By Kendra R. Buckles

When most Samford students were still enjoying their last weeks of summer relaxation or wrapping up summer jobs, the seventeen girls on the Samford cheerleading squad had already sacrificed their summer freedom. During the first week of August, the squad came together for the first time since try-outs in May to prepare for both the cheering season at Samford and their upcoming competition. With only four returning team members, "boot-camp," as they refer to it, was a time for bonding as well as grueling work.

However challenging, pre-season "boot-camp" paid off when the squad traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for the National Cheerleaders Association competition the third week of August. Competing against forty other squads, the Samford squad scored 45 out of a possible 50 points, second only to the University of Louisville who earned 48 points. The squad walked away with a second place trophy and the confidence that this was the year they could turn their program around.

Along with thirteen new members, the squad welcomed other changes which allowed the 2005 season to be a year for change and growth. Its increased size and all-girl status were two of the main changes for the squad. "Having more people allowed us to do more this season," co-captain Katie Bottoms said. "Surprisingly, we all get along so well. There are never any problems, which you don't expect with all girls." Of the thirteen new members, nine are incoming freshman, one is a transfer student and three were sophomores who did not cheer for Samford as freshman.

In addition to an increased squad size, change in coaching has been one of the biggest improvements to the program this year. After several years of frequent staff turnover, Mary Ussery took the position of head coach knowing that she wanted to improve the program.

"The girls have been very determined to turn that program around. With our challenge of taking a program and turning it around in one year, it is fortunate we have



the girls that we do," Ussery said. "The girls have raised the bar for Samford." Ussery brought years of head coaching experience to Samford. She was the cheerleading head coach for many high school squads, an assistant to the head coach at Clemson University and a head coach at Anderson College. In addition to coaching, she has choreography and judging experience as well. In South Carolina, she was a state choreographer for different high school and college competitions and judged regional, state and even a national competition.

Though Ussery has enjoyed her work at other universities, she has been most impressed with Samford's staff. "Working for Samford has been the most enjoyable thing about this year. I have worked for other universities and high schools, and this staff is by far the best," Ussery said. "They work together like a family and care about each and every staff member."

In addition to Ussery, other staff changes have benefited the squad. Rebecca Lee, a Cumberland law student and former Florida State University cheerleader and coach, has helped choreograph this season as well. "She has been a real blessing to the squad this season," Bottoms said.

Although the squad cares about improving their own program, they want the university to know that they have a genuine interest in their team's success.

Some of the squad's "cheering" goes on behind the scenes. "For the first game

and Homecoming, we surprised the football team by decorating their locker room before the game. There were signs, streamers, and balloons everywhere," Bottoms explained. "We really want to see the teams to do well."

In addition to cheering at football and basketball games, the squad makes community appearances as well. They coach cheer camps for young girls before the games, at churches' Upward Athletics programs and even for birthday parties. They also participated in the Homewood City Christmas parade, made appearances at birthday parties and sung Christmas carols at Lakeshore's Summerset Home.

Ussery encouraged the team to carol at the Summerset Home. Last year the squad visited the VA Hospital, and this year they wanted to serve one of Samford's close neighbors. "We just wanted to give back to the community for Christmas, and they are our neighbors at Samford," Bottoms said. "Coach Ussery was a big part of making that happen."

After setting the goal of turning the program around, the squad has seen many signs that their goal was being met. "We have felt more support from the students, school, and athletic department. People have just noticed us more, and we've just gotten lots more attention this year. It's really encouraging," Bottoms said. "We work really and care about our school. People are beginning to see that." ♦

By Jena Hippensteel

# Ready, Set, Spike

Right: Kristein Sosnowski anticipates her next move as her teammate hits the ball.

Below: The team celebrates a victory.

Far Right: Courtney Keene spikes the ball and Jen Powers prepares to block the opposing team's next move.



A lone figure mopped the wood logo under the dim lights of the gymnasium. All that could be heard in the void of the empty room was the figure's shoes squeaking against the floor. The only evidence of what happened just an hour before were the echoes of cheers and yells that reverberated off the stone walls and the sweat left upon the floor from the volleyball match.

The smack of a hand against a small, white volleyball could terrify the average person. However, members of the girl's volleyball team didn't shy away from the opportunity. In fact, they were trained for the moment.

With "two-a-days," the girls started practicing together in the beginning of August to improve their skills, agility, strength and communication. With only one senior on the team, it was important to work as a unit. "It was hard being the only senior because we had such a young team and there was a lot to learn, but I feel like I did learn more about being a leader, usually through trial and error," Courtney Keen said.

Making up for the lack of seniors, six freshmen were added to the team. According to assistant coach Lynze Roos, "The freshman class was a really big class in the volleyball world. The upperclassmen really took to the freshmen class, and they've all become great friends."

Throughout the year, the team experienced ups and downs, but Roos reflected on the positive moments of the season. "A moment that stands out best in my mind is when we had an intense match against UNC-Asheville and we came out on the lesser end. Our team will face them early in the fall of '06 and we'll be looking for revenge. As for the most memorable win, it was great to beat Morehead at Morehead. The team looked outstanding in that match," Roos said.

The team ended the season winning 16 of 30 matches and finished 7th in the Ohio Valley Conference, missing the conference tournament by a single match. Freshman Sara Sears was honored on the OVC Newcomers team.

Between the fall and spring seasons, the Bulldogs individually trained until the start of their season in February. In the spring, the girls practiced as a team and participated in four matches. "They have the abilities to make the Samford Volleyball Program a contender for the OVC championship in the next year. I'm very proud of how hard they're working to achieve the goals they've set," Roos said. ♦





# A Journey Down the Dance Team

By Jena Hippensteel

How many students have seen movies that focus on dancers and their moves, such as *Center Stage* or *Save The Last Dance*? How many uncoordinated students watch the dance team strut their stuff and wish they could do the same? No doubt, some students yearn to bend and keep a beat just like girls on the team. Being a part of the group is not entirely about flashy costumes and high kicks, though. It takes dedication and hard work to honestly call yourself a part of the dance team.

For an entering freshman or a recent student to join the team, she must first and foremost have experience. Most of the girls on the team have an extensive dancing history. They have participated on their high school team or in competitive dancing or studio training.

The team is laid back concerning who can join since there are no scholarships and no official coach. A particular dance style isn't favored, either. The girls just have to be, "self motivated and [have to] respect their peers," junior team captain Kathryn Lamb said. As long as a person has talent and is willing to work, they can sign up for tryouts in April and hope for the best.

The dance team congregated a week before school began. Coming to school earlier was not just a chance to rekindle friendships and start new ones, it was to ensure the team enough practice before football season started. During the football games, the team danced energetically and pumped up the crowd.

In addition to football games, the team's schedule included basketball games, an annual dance production and the opening act of Step Sing. Pre-production practices took place four or five times a week, where the girls worked on routines for roughly three hours. "Dance team is a lot of hard work, and I don't think we get enough recognition for all the hours we put in. But it's really fun and it's a great group of girls," freshman Morgan Glasscock said.

When November rolled around, the team worked extra hard for their annual production. Since dance team is not directly connected with athletics, they are not given any funds from the school. However, SGA did help the girls rent the Virginia Samford Theater for the production. Not only did the girls completely choreograph the routine, but they also bought their own costumes, raised money and worked the show.

The show, *A Journey Down Broadway*, was a success. It featured music from the 1930s to the 1980s. The colorful outfits and engaging tunes, such as "I Hope I Get It"

**"Dance team is a lot of hard work, and I don't think we get enough recognition for all the hours we put in."**

and "Luck be a Lady Tonight," showed off the girl's talents with a wide range of dance moves. The show created quite a sensation which drew in many students to the two day production.

Despite the hard work, long hours and sore muscles the girls found the dance team worth every drop of sweat. "Dance Team is a great experience. It helped me get to know older students and we've had a lot of fun together," freshman Lindsay Stroud said. ♦



Photo Credit: Dance Team Page Design: Lindsay Plattner









The Samford Bulldogs tackle the Tennessee Tigers during the Homecoming game.





# Not the Average Team

By Josh Rutledge

The average person would laugh. The average fan would no longer care. The average team would quit after a hard season, but the Samford football team never gave up.

The Samford football team wasn't supposed to be all that great. In fact, they were ranked sixth in the Ohio Valley Conference pre-season poll. After the first four games, the Bulldogs stood at 1-3, with their only win coming in the season opener against intercollegiate Edward Waters.

Following their opening win of 60-7, the Bulldogs dropped the next three games on the road to Baylor, Furman and Eastern Illinois by a combined score of 136-51. The critics murmured that maybe six had been too high of a pre-season rank.

"After that tough stretch, we felt that we needed to get back to the basics," junior wide receiver Jeff Moore said. "We went back to the beginning, and started doing the things we had practiced from the first day of camp. When you are down like we were, you have to just get back to the simple things."

Deflated and frustrated, the Bulldogs returned home to face Southeast Missouri. After a disappointing first half of play, the Bulldogs stormed to a 27-5 second half, finishing the game with a 33-17 win. "Our guys regrouped. After that early rough stretch, we needed to come together," head coach Bill Gray said.

With the momentum of the home win now spurring them on, the Bulldogs

returned to the road, but were beaten soundly by the Eastern Kentucky Colonels 38-6.

The frustrations of the first half of the season re-emerged. Hopeful fans returned to their frustrations and a young team appeared to be doomed to fall flat. Coming back home, however, the Bulldogs managed a tight and crucial victory over the Murray State Racers. Although the Racers were the worst team in the conference, the victory was monumental. This win sparked the team to their first road win over Tennessee-Martin, followed by yet another home win against Tennessee State.

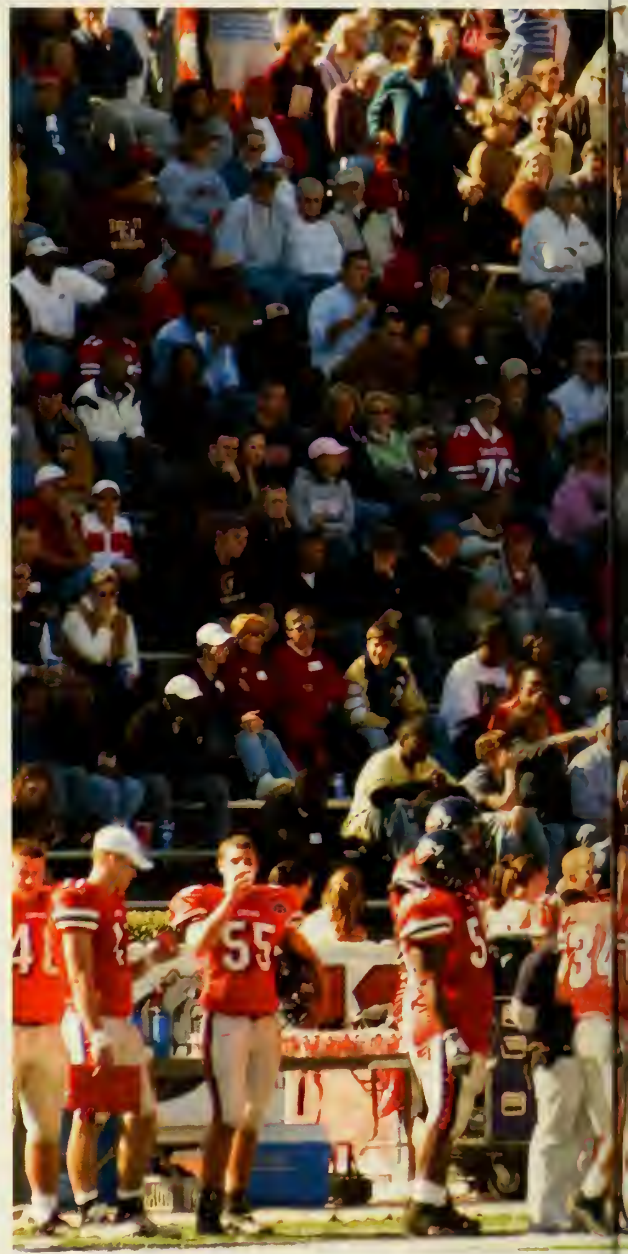
According to Moore, the Tennessee-Martin game marked the highest point in the season. "The U.T. Martin game was our best game. Everything went right in that game and we did everything right."

Suddenly, the Bulldogs looked at a possible 7-4 season, and an outside shot at the conference title. However, the rising hopes came to a close in a disappointing 42-21 loss to Tennessee Tech. "The Tennessee Tech loss really hurt."

We had a chance to win, but we just made too many mistakes," Gray said. "You can't turn the ball over five times and expect to win."

The team had the same problem with the following game. Six turnovers led to a 26-20 loss to a Jacksonville State team ranked in the top three in the conference. The loss marked the first home loss for the Bulldogs and put the team back under 500.





However, in a season that started rough, turned bright and then finished sour, the Bulldogs came away with more than a simple record of 5-6. "This season bodes well for our future," Gray said.

"I think we accomplished some things that weren't expected from a team picked to finish 6th."

Amid the frustrations, the team also found a comfort playing at home, finishing with a home record of 4-1. "The home fans were great. It's a lot easier to go out and play well when you have the home crowd cheering you on," Gray said.

Seniors were few and far between, with only five starting seniors listed on the preseason roster. However, those five found themselves shaping together a bright future for their team. Two of the senior leaders were Brad Booth and Steve Wisdom. Although Booth was injured early in the

**"I think we accomplished some things that weren't expected from a team picked to finish sixth."**

season, he remained a key to the team throughout the season. "Booth was set back early in the season by injury, but he was still a major part of this team. He was a true leader in our locker room," Gray said.

"As for Wisdom, no one played with as much heart as Steve did."

Another hometown favorite, senior defensive back Cortland Finnegan finished an impressive career, making a powerful impact with his energetic style of play. His 75-yard punt return verse Murray State put the Bulldogs ahead for good in that game.

"We had five great seniors. They showed a lot of leadership to a very young team," Brown said.

For most teams, disappointment and frustration would be the only attributes remembered from a 5-6 season, but the Bulldogs rose above the challenges and laid a foundation upon which the future of Samford football will rest. ♦





Photo Credit: Nick Holdbrooks, Susannah Marlowe Page Design: Lindsay Plattner





Members of the men's cross country team lift their spirits with a huddle.

Opposite page: A Samford runner finishes the race with persistence.



# Go the Distance

by Katie Lantz

Go the distance. Push your limit. These could be the phrases that would summarize the mind-set of every cross country runner. It almost seems to be a requirement. Imagine on an early Monday morning before school or on a crisp Saturday morning on a golf course you step up to the race start line knowing that for at least the next 20 minutes you would be pushing our body, mind, and spirit to exert all the strength and quickness your body can muster in order to win a distance race against 200 other runners with the same goal. Go the distance. That is Samford Cross Country.

The four-month season started the week before class at a small state park in Georgia, otherwise known as cross country camp. Here the phrase, "eat, sleep, and run" becomes a reality as the twenty-two members of the cross country team ran two-a-days in preparation for the season to come.

"Camp has always been a tough but rewarding way to start the season," senior Connie Hesikell said. "You train for three months during the summer and then the whole team comes together at camp. Training as a team is so crucial to the rest of the season."

The season kicked-off at the Chattanooga Invitational held in Chattanooga, Tenn. The women captured the first place finish beating the host team, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the men finished fourth.

"Our team is growing. Gaining experience in college is crucial to the improving performance. With no seniors on the team, the underclassman have really had to step up their performance and leadership for this season," sophomore captain Drew Anderwald said.

With All-American Lauren Blankenship returning to the field after recovering from a hand injury, the women's cross country team continued their winning streak capturing the Crimson Tide Invitational, hosted by the University of Alabama, and the Auburn Invitational, hosted by Auburn University. The men finished 8th

and 12th respectively. For the first time in Samford Cross Country history both teams traveled the distance to Terre Haute, Ind. to compete in the pre-national meet held in mid-October. The meet brought both teams to a new level of competition as the women finished 23rd out of 35 teams and the men finished 9th out of 11 teams.

"This was an opportunity to grow as a program by stretching and testing the runners on both teams," assistant coach Chad James said. "The meet also served as great preparation for the OVC conference and South Regional meet."

The pre-national meet proved to be the right preparation for the women's team as they captured their second consecutive OVC conference championship. Blankenship finished first on the 5K course in 17:00.8 and was named OVC female runner of the year. The women finished first, second, third, fourth and tenth to capture the conference crown with 20 points. McWaters was also named OVC women's cross country coach of the year.

"Coming back to the conference meet and winning a second time is a goal well achieved," senior Michelle Brewer, who placed fourth, said. "It's a blessing to be a part of such a great team who has worked hard all year for this title."

The men's team finished fourth in the conference. Cameron Bean ran the 8K course in 26:15.02 and was named Freshman Male runner of the year.

"Cameron has been running well all year. His conference achievement showed his progression," McWaters said.

Both teams finished the season at the South Regional meet in Gainesville, Fla. hosted by the University of Florida. The women finished the 6K seventh out of 24 teams and the men finished the 10K race 17th out of 20 teams. But for Lauren Blankenship she had a longer season to finish. Blankenship blazed the trail finishing third overall in a time of 20:16.39 capturing an automatic bid to the NCAA national race for the second year in a row.

"It was an accomplishment just to qualify for nationals. It has always been a goal of

mine to return to nationals. That is what I train for each and every day," Blankenship said. "Even though this year at nationals I didn't finish as high as I wanted due to a hip injury, I still improved my place from 161st in 2004 to 52nd this past season."

Samford Cross Country goes the distance beyond their running abilities. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the team volunteered their time to help others. Members of the men's team traveled to Mobile, Ala. With them, they brought willingness to help and 25 boxes of shoes and clothes donated by the cross country team and the Lakeshore Foundation. Also, members of the women's cross country team donated their fall break cleaning up areas in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The OVC recognized their pursuit of going the distance as both the men's and women's cross country team received the league's inaugural Team Sportsmanship Award. This award is voted on by conference runners and coaches and is given to the team that has shown the best standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

Head coach Glenn McWaters said, "We feel very privileged and humbled by this award. I think that this is a reflection of the quality of kids we have here at Samford." ♦







Jessica Brewer and Michelle Brewer run side by side towards the finish line.

Right: Trent Schmidt competes in pole vault.



# Racing to the Finish Line

by Joshua Rutledge

Track season officially started on January 28 at the Rod McCravy Memorial in Lexington, Ky. There, pole-vaulter Mark Holmes matched his best performance, a school record from 2005, with a mark of 15'1. However, the women's track team was without the first ever Division I-A All-American at Samford, Lauren Blankenship, from last semester.

She had a promising season ahead of her, but due to a hip injury, the coaches felt it best to hold Blankenship out for the 2006 season.

"The injury happened in the fall, and I thought I'd be able to get back after Christmas, but I couldn't run more than 30 minutes," Blankenship said. "It's been frustrating not being able to travel and train with my teammates, but I've just tried to stay on top by working out on my own and getting some of my times back up."

On February 11th, the teams traveled to S.C. to compete in the Clemson Tiger Classic, where three school records were set. Laura Malnati won the high-jump competition at the event with a jump of 5'06, tying her school record.

For the men's track team, the Clemson Tiger Classic was also a great start to the season. Cameron Bean, who was named OVC freshman of the year in 2005, set a personal record in the 3000 meter. "It's been a great first season. The team has bonded really well, and it's been a lot of fun," Bean said.

Continuing his opening season at the OVC Indoor Championships in February, Bean placed third in the 5000 meter-run with a time of 8:47:07. Michael Smith earned all-conference honors by running a 7.72 in the 55-meter hurdle.

On the women's team, the OVC Indoor Championships marked a high point in the

season, adding 77 points to the team total and rising to fourth in the OVC. Robyn DeBenedet ran a school record 5:06 in the mile run, and a 10:24.22 in the 3000 meters, winning all-conference honors in both events.

"Our goal was just to get better every week, and I think we were able to do that this season," head coach Glenn McWaters said. "The players worked out well, and there were better results as the season progressed."

**"The team has bonded really well, and it's been a lot of fun."**

From Clemson, the teams headed to Tallahassee, Fla. for the FSU Snowbird Invitational to kick off the outdoor season. Highlighting the trip with a time of 9:47:26 in the 3000-meter steeplechase, Michael Hanson's time was good enough to give him first place in the event. Malnati continued to impress with her high-jump, tying her school record once again. "In Tallahassee, Hanson and Malnati's performances got the outdoor season off to a great start," McWaters said.

At the Alabama Relays in Tuscaloosa, the teams finished in the top 10 seven times. Michael Smith ran a 52.98 in the 400-meter hurdle, good enough for second. April Howell won both the 100-meter hurdle and the triple jump.

After Tuscaloosa, the team continued the year with competitions in Texas, Ark. and several other locations in Ala. They finished each event with quick times, boding well for the OVC Outdoor Championships.

With NCAA regulations allowing for 28 men to compete and Samford having no more than 18 at any event, the team could not technically finish better than fourth

in the majority of events, which hampered their overall score.

"We don't have any competitors in a number of track and field events, and that hurts our score at a lot of tournaments. Most of the bigger schools can pick up free points against us just by competing in events that we can't compete in," McWaters said. ♦



# Girls Soccer

By Jena Hippensteel

Tanned and toned frames raced back and forth across a groomed, grassy field. The girls, padded for protection, draped themselves in matching uniforms, half of the team in one color and half in another. With hair pulled back, they were ready for the battle as the match began.

Jogging onto the field, they were pumped from the cheers of their beloved fans and the pep talk from the coaches. As they mulled plays over in their heads before the whistle blew, they were tough physically and mentally. The numbers on these backs were meant to separate them from the rest of the figures from the stands. In the end, they all belonged to one group: girl's soccer.

When a student signs up for a sport at school, they join a family as well as a team. For two of this year's entering freshmen, Marche Olds and Cayley Winters, they said joining the team was, "easy because everyone [was] so welcoming."

This year's leadership fell into the hands of Coach Todd Yelton, assistant coaches Brian Cophan and Jay Yelton and seniors Emily Morris and Marian Wagner. Olds described them as competitive, fun, and genuine. "You [could] tell they actually cared," Olds said. The girls first assembled August 19th at 1:00 pm to start training for the upcoming season. Little did they know, this would be the beginning of a record-breaking season. During the actual season, the girls had three practices during the week along with two games. The girls said the grueling practices and sweat-stained shirts were worth it in the end.

Girl's soccer this year was the most successful in the school's history. The girls won the Ohio Valley Conference in regular season. The Ohio Valley Conference

Tournament also added to the girls list of victories. One of the most exciting events of the season was during the NCAA Tournament. After beating Vanderbilt to get to the second round, the girl's faced Pepperdine. Even though they lost 2-0, the team played with full force.

At the request of Olds and Winters, there is to be a mention of the dedicated soccer fans. "They are the best in the country," they said. With colorful outfits and loud, excited voices, the fans followed the team to the games. From Illinois to Nashville, the fans continued to cheer all year long and helped boost the girls' spirits.

Once the season was over, the girls had a break from the demanding soccer schedule until after Thanksgiving when working out started again. They had "individuals" with two or three other teammates and a coach. Once February hit, spring season began, bringing with it a less intense, yet still challenging, season compared to fall.

Off the practice fields and outside stadiums, the girls have formed strong, lasting bonds with one another. Some of the girls' favorite memories include a trip to a lake house, long bus rides full of games to pass the time and, of course, memorable soccer games.

"The girls' soccer team has great chemistry," Winters said. Soccer is not a burden for them, it is their life. The girls take great pride in their accomplishments and their second family. ♦







Right: Men's club soccer member prepares to kick the ball down the field.

Below: Samford player kicks the ball into the net for the win.





# Determination Keeps the Ball Rolling

By Joshua Rutledge

For some students the need to play competitive sports goes beyond mere intramurals. Even with a few injured players, a few unable to compete and the rest forced to take on the competition short-handed, the men's club soccer team still provided a competitive environment.

"Three of our guys had season-ending injuries last year. I was actually in London, so I wasn't even able to be here," team captain Kyle Jones said.

During the first few weeks of the fall semester, over 50 students took up the team's offer to try out. Only a few made the roster, setting the team at twenty players. "It's pretty competitive to get a spot," Jones said. "Every year we find a few new players who can really play, though."

Senior players such as Jones were responsible for picking the roster, but input from the rest of the existing team was pooled together as well. After the roster was finalized, the season officially began. The team played opponents such as University of Alabama, Ole Miss, University of Georgia, Mississippi State and Georgia Tech.

Four or five games were played on the road. Since the team was completely student-run, no school funding was provided for travel or food expenses. Also, the team wasn't provided with adult coaches or management. Jones took over the job of official coach, captain and team

president from former captain Joe Graves. "The players on the team are all responsible for pitching in to help cover all our costs," Jones said.

The team practiced an average of two times per week. "I thought we should have practiced more," sophomore player Carson Lorentz said. "I think we probably could have had a better season if we had taken things a bit more seriously."

Keeping no record of any team or individual statistic, the team said they played because of love for the game. "Overall, the season was pretty disappointing to tell you the truth,"

Lorentz said. "We didn't do as well as I thought we could, but it was still fun. It's always fun to travel and spend time with the guys."

**"We didn't do as well as I thought we could, but it was still fun."**

The schedule ended after the fall semester, but the team had by no means finished playing. They played indoor soccer during the spring, hoping to keep their game sharp. The indoor league presented an opportunity for the team to build together for the upcoming season. "We have a couple new guys coming next year that should be pretty good, so I'm looking forward to seeing what we'll be able to do," Lorentz said. ♦





# Triumph on the Court

by Hunter Denson

Storming up the court and up the Ohio Valley Conference, the men's basketball team, led by Coach Jimmy Tillette, compiled an overall record of 17 and eight, stymieing opponents with their court strategies and shooting techniques.

Piloted by senior Robert Merritt, who was third in the nation for highest three point percentage, the Bulldogs piled up a 13 and five record in the OVC with a home court advantage throughout the first round of the conference tournament. The Bulldogs ranked second in the conference behind Murray State.

Freshman forward Bryan Friday said, "The Bulldogs seven game winning streak was most definitely the best part of the season." With this winning streak, the Bulldogs earned victories over teams such as Tennessee Martin and Jacksonville State University.

"This year's team has several qualities that have helped them achieve success, but one stands out from the others," coach Tillette said. "The main quality that creates success on the court is toughness, and the team exemplified this trait with their many victories."

One of the most notable victories occurred when ESPN U visited the campus. In their first nationally televised game, the Bulldogs shot 54% from the floor defeating Morehead State 76-54, led in performance by Merritt and sophomore center Travis Peterson.

Heading into their final road trip to Ohio University, Southeast Missouri and Eastern Illinois, the Bulldogs faced tough competition that prepared them for their postseason tournament. Playing against Tennessee Tech in the first round of the OVC tournament, the Bulldogs fought for the victory 73-66 behind junior Jerry Smith and his 10 for 12 shooting from the free throw line.

"Our biggest victory was over Tennessee State in the first round of the conference tournament because that was the first time

that we had ever won an OVC tournament game. That game gave us confidence going into the semifinals against Tech," Merritt said.

In the finals, the Bulldogs battled against Murray State for the conference crown but fell short despite Merritt's career high of 8 three pointers. Though they lost the championship to Murray State, Merritt said they still had a successful season with a bright future for next year.

"I thought that we had a very successful year for Samford basketball," Merritt said. "We obviously would have liked to beat Murray State for the OVC championship, but we gave it all that we had and came up a little short. The best part about this season is that we put Samford back on top of the OVC. The players got a taste of what it is like to be in the championship game and next year that should help give them experience and confidence to hopefully win the conference." ♦

Far left: Randall Gulina listens as his teammate explains the game plan.

Below: Jerry Smith prepares to pass the ball to a fellow teammate.











Far left: The Bulldogs work together to dunk the ball and score the winning points.

Left: Jason Black dribbles the ball down the court.

Below: Samford's J. Robert Merritt, the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year, goes up against three players to bring the Bulldogs a victory.



# A Slam Dunk to Victory

by Hunter Denson

If you walked into Seibert Hall in the early part of the fall semester and thought you heard thunder, you probably heard the women's basketball team working on their game and preparing for the 2005-2006 season.

Led by second time All Conference sophomore forward Alex Munday, the Lady Bulldogs stormed to a best ever 21 and eight record while also earning a Rating Percentage Index of 103, their highest in the program's history.

"This years season was a huge step forward for a program that has only been around eight years," sophomore guard MaKenzie Spruiell said. "The success this year has been thrilling."

Although the season started with a loss to Birmingham Southern, the Bulldogs enjoyed an eight game winning streak ending with Tulane University.

As the Bulldogs came into the OVC Tournament, they drew a match-up with Jacksonville State in the first round, a game they played at home in front of cheering fans. Helped by the performance of junior guard Chelsea Insell and her double contribution of 25 points and 10 rebounds, the Bulldogs scraped out a win 58-56 to move on to the semifinals and came one step closer to the championship.

The Bulldogs moved on to face Southeast Missouri in the semis and, though they battled hard, eventually fell 59-52 to close

their season. Their many victories placed them second in the OVC, finishing behind Tennessee Tech University.

At the Tennessee State game, Munday set the school record for points in a game with 34, beating the previous record of 33 set by Jodi Morris in 1999. "I actually didn't know that I set the record for the most points in a game," Munday said. "I just went out and played and hoped that my shot was going to be there. I guess it was just a good night." The Bulldogs shot an incredible 51.1% from the field during that game and ran away with the victory 67-42.

**"I just went out and played and hoped that my shot was going to be there. I guess it was just a good night."**

Despite Munday's achievements this year, she said the best thing about the season was spending time with her team. "The whole season was great. It was just fun to get to play with and hang out with my teammates. They are awesome people to be around."

The success of the Bulldogs this season also won their coach Mike Morris the OVC Coach of the Year award. Coach Morris attributed the team's success to his players. "They are tough, skilled and knowledgeable at how to play the game unselfishly while putting forth incredible effort," Morris said. ♦





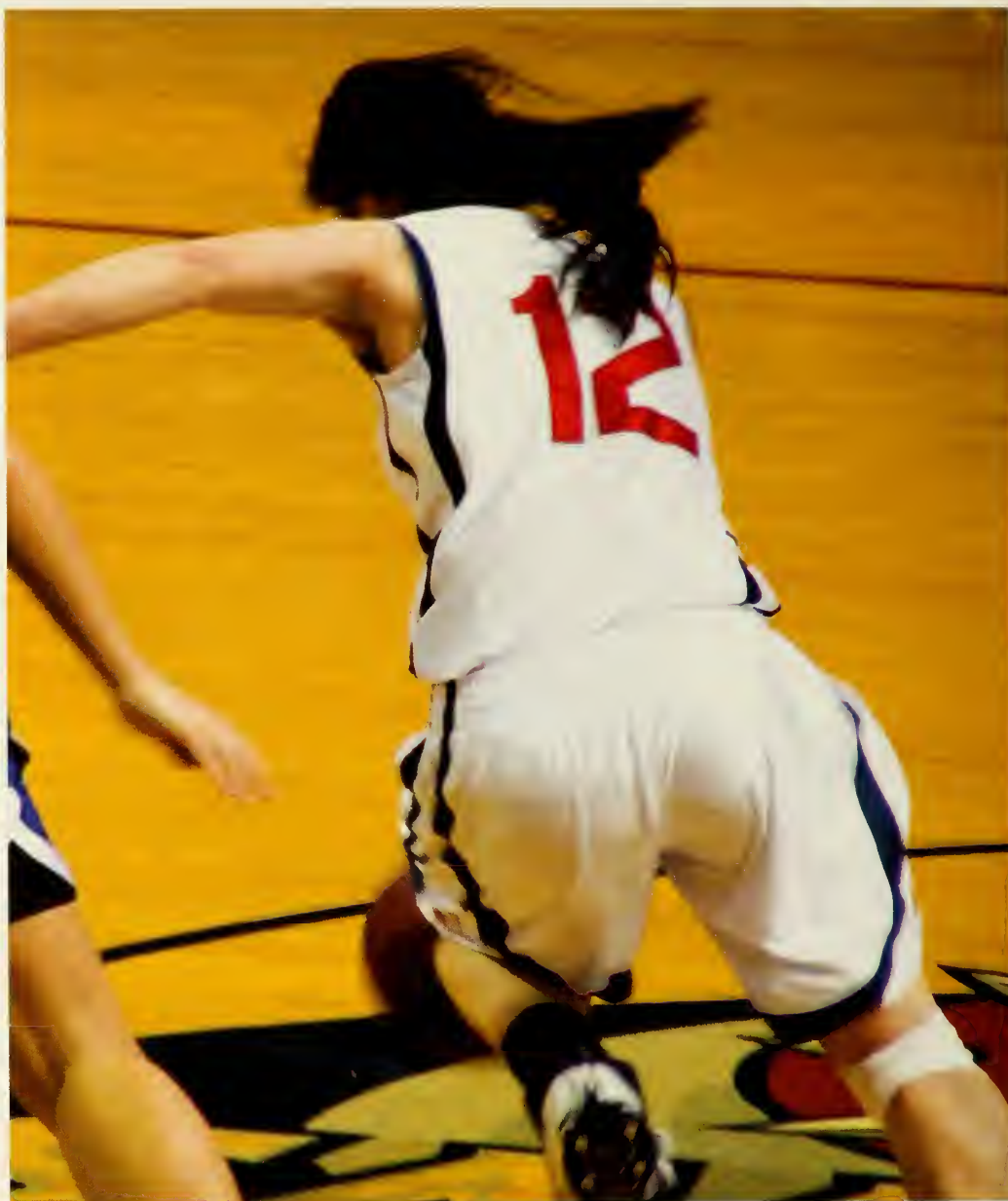
Photo Credit: Nick Holdbrooks Page Design: Lindsay Plattner

Left: Andrea Ward guards the ball from her opponents.

Below: Tish Pilkerton dribbles up the court.







Right: Megan Wilderotter blocks her opponents to protect the ball.

Far right: Taryn Towns dribbles the ball down the court

Below: Alex Munday runs down the court. Chelsea Insell anticipates a pass from teammate Cora Beth Smith.









Right: Louis Rojas sends the ball into right field.

Opposite page: Josh Ehmke pitches the ball.

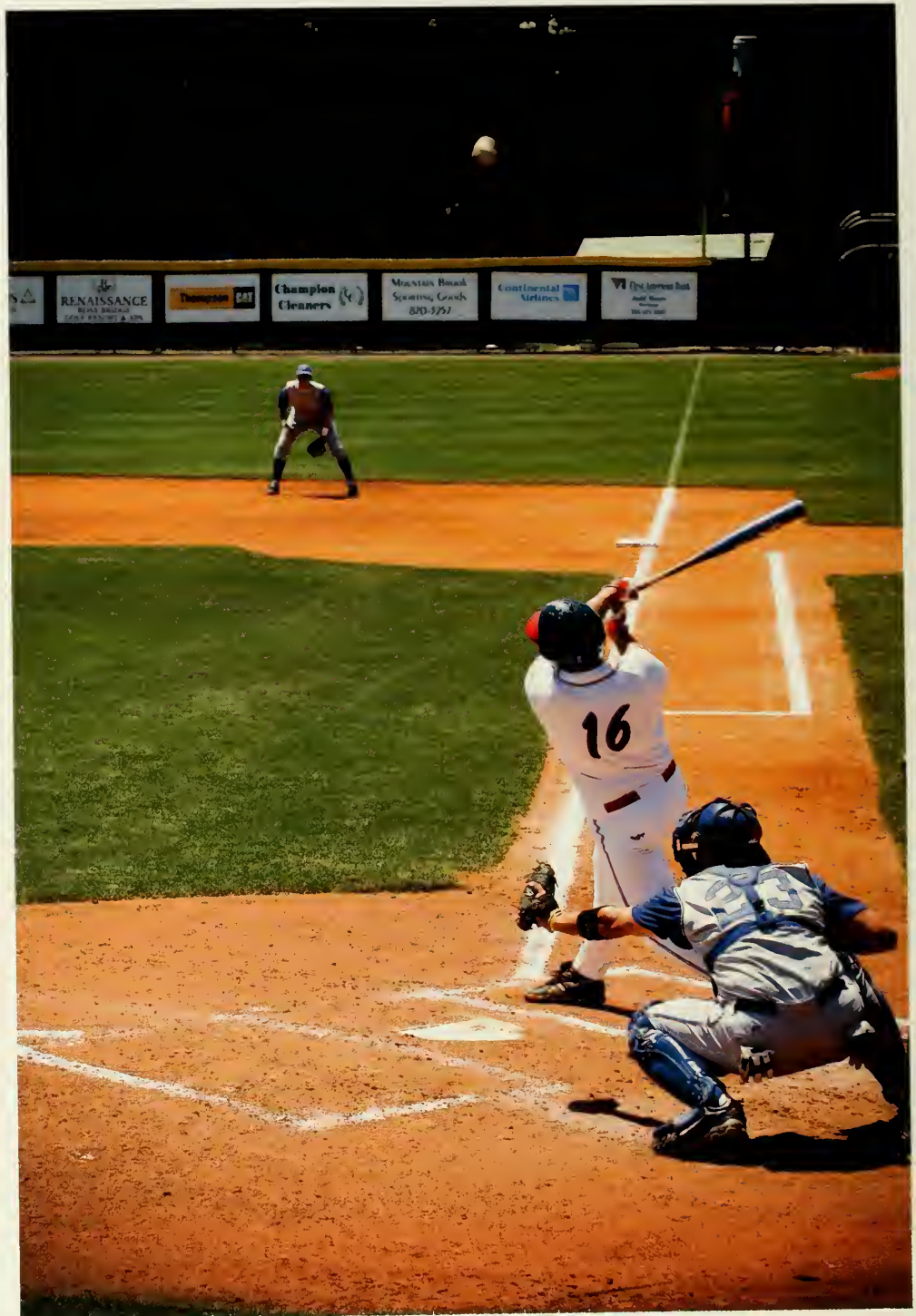
In only the second season for this new coaching staff, the Samford Baseball team proved they are ready to make and leave a mark in the Samford Legacy. The team led the Ohio Valley Conference for most of the season and ended up placing second in the OVC Championship.

Senior Matt Alling, who transferred to Samford and overcame injury, summed up the season. "Given our team's success, I wouldn't trade this season for anything in the world. Our team has great chemistry, and we play really well together," Alling said.

The team's success showed at the conference tournament with several wins leading them to the semi-finals and defeating Eastern Kentucky University 24-6. Then, the Bulldogs went to the finals. In the finals, the team experienced an upset against Jacksonville State University losing 8-7.

At the beginning of the season, their goal was to just make it to the tournament. Not only did they get to the tournament, but they placed second in the conference ending their season with a final record of 34-25.

The team experienced several victories throughout the season as they declared victories on their two biggest contenders. Samford defeated Ole Miss, 2-3, and Auburn, 5-4, making these games some of the greatest highlights of the season.



Coach Casey Dunn said he was also impressed with the victories against Troy State University and Jackson State University, both of which are in-state rivals. Another success was winning the 15 inning game against Southeastern Missouri.

The team's "emotional leader," as Dunn said, is senior Trey Moody. "I have been impressed by the cohesion that has allowed the team to blend well together throughout the year," Dunn said.

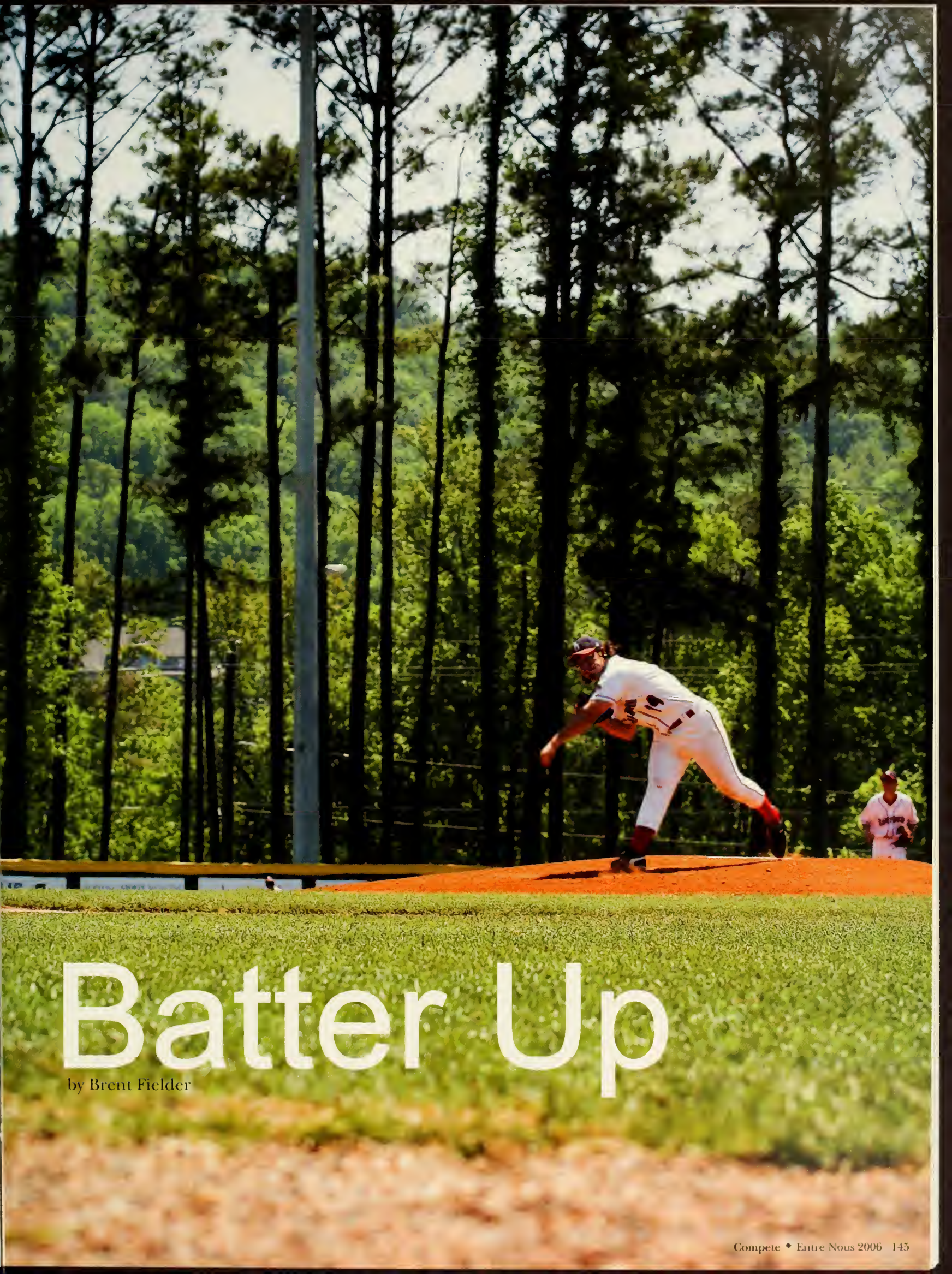
The team has welcomed many new players in hopes of filling the shoes of the seven seniors who are leaving the program. Dunn said he is excited about the new leaders emerging and the talents they will bring.

Senior Hunter Tubbs said, "The team has done really well this year. We pretty much have a brand new squad, and everyone has come together and learned each other's personalities and playing styles."

**"Given our team's success I wouldn't trade this season for anything in the world."**

The team also experienced more fan support this year, which helped boost team morale. Dunn said fans have been a great addition to the games, and he hopes this will continue as the team continues winning.





# Batter Up

by Brent Fielder



# Touching Base

by Jessica Lee





The women's softball team completed their season with a record of 20-38. Despite their losing season, the Bulldogs gained many honors. Not only were they led by a coach, Beanie Ketcham, who was asked to serve as assistant coach for the U.S. women's softball team and boasts more wins than any other Samford softball coach, but the team also included many record-setting players.

Junior right fielder Shelley Stanley set the Samford record for home runs, with 25, while freshman Stephanie Royall was honored with Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week on April 24. Also, as a team, the Bulldogs set the record for

a single-game steal with seven against Tennessee State on March 26. And they set the record for single-season steals with more than 70 runs.

Through the tough season, the women took many lessons away from it. "This season is one that none of us could have expected," Royall said. "Even through the ups and downs and the stuff going on off the field, it was a rewarding season. It was something we couldn't have learned if we'd had a winning season."

Ketcham said she was disappointed with the season but not with the girls. "There have been a lot of things off the field that people don't know about that have

contributed to their performance, but our kids have battled hard through the season," Ketcham said. "They learned a lot as a team, and they've grown a lot as a team. I'm proud of the way they persevered."

The freshmen were a great addition to the Bulldog lineup. According to Ketcham, "The freshmen have really contributed to the team, with Royall leading the way."

**"They learned a lot as a team, and they've grown a lot as a team. I'm proud of the way they persevered."**

The feeling is reciprocated by the team. Ketcham helped the team through the season with her unique methods, Royall said. "Coach Ketcham is a tough competitor, which you have to be in college sports. Even though we haven't been winning, she's able to find motivation in it, instead of coming down on us hard about it," Royall said. "She has been a great inspiration to us."

According to Royall, the highlight of the season was when the women swept Southeast Missouri in late April. "It was one of the best moments," Royall said. "It came together, and we had a great time doing it." ♦



Left: With one swing, Shelley Stanley connects with the ball.



# A Stroke of Success

by Kendra R. Buckles

For the 11 players on Samford's men's golf team, the game is not merely a leisurely pastime. It is a sport which they pursue with the same passion, dedication and rigorous schedule as that of players in more visible sports on Samford's campus.

Five days a week, the 11 team members practice from the time their classes end until the sun goes down. The team is able to utilize approximately 10 courses in the Birmingham area for practice. "People don't realize that we practice four to five hours a day," team captain Reed Davis said. "It is a lot of practice time and a lot of work."

Because of their hard work in 2005, the team of two seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and two freshmen began the 2006 spring season as conference champions.

In the spring of 2005, the team won the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, which they hosted at the Burning Tree Golf Course in Decatur, Ala. It was the first conference championship won by a Samford's men's golf team. The team traveled to Palo Alto, Calif., to the regional tournament hosted by Stanford University in California. Though they did not have success in California, the conference championship set a new precedent for the team. "Winning conference was the highlight of last season," Davis said.





In addition to setting a new precedent, the status of conference champions brought the team other advantages for the 2006 season. First, the team gained more recognition on campus with the conference win. They were recognized at the half time of a Samford football game and given championship rings.

However, being conference champions gave them more perks than just campus recognition. "Being in that category of teams is a big deal for us. We have been recognized in our conference as contenders," coach Woodie Eubank, a 1998 Samford alum, said. "In golf, being recognized goes a long way."

Because of their 2005 championship status, the team was invited to play in the Wofford and Furman Invitational tournaments. "We were invited because of our great year last year," Davis said.

The Wofford and Furman Invitationals, in Spartanburg and Furman, N.C. respectively, were two of the five tournaments the teams attended in the Spring of 2006. The team finished third out of 12 teams at the Wofford Invitational and third again out of 18 teams at the Furman Invitational.

The team also hosted the Samford Intercollegiate Tournament where they placed sixth. The men also traveled to

Jacksonville, Ala., for the Jacksonville State Invitational where they finished fifth and to Jonesboro, Ark., for the Arkansas State Invitational where they finished 11th.

The team ended its spring season by traveling to Paducah, Ky., to defend its OVC championship title at the Paducah Country Club. Though the men played well, they were unable to repeat their championship, finishing eighth at the tournament. The men finished one stroke behind seventh-place Murray State in the three-round tournament. Eastern Kentucky won the 10-team tournament.

Nathan Turner led the team at the tournament with a three-round score of 223 (75, 75, 73). He placed 16th overall in the tournament, which was his final one at Samford. Andrew Villarreal and Bradley Pate tied for 25th overall. Reed Davis finished 28th, with a combined score of 228, and Ryan Mayberry tied for 37th overall, also in his final Samford tournament.

Though the team did not win the conference title again, they do have distinction in Samford golf history. The 2005-2006 team was the first men's golf team to utilize the new \$25,000 short green which Samford built behind the softball field. On the new green, the team was able to practice their chipping and putting.

"It's been nice this season, especially

since the weather hasn't been great and the local courses have been closed," Davis said. "It will help up a lot because not we can practice whenever we want to. It is an advantage."

Davis also cited Eubank, the coach of the men's golf team for three years, as another advantage for their team. "He is a great player himself and pushes us very hard. He helps us a lot," Davis said. "He has played professionally, and it helps to compete with someone who has played on the next level."

Though Davis understood that it is hard for the Samford community to support them because of their traveling, he hopes people recognize their efforts and contributions to Samford Athletics. "I want people to recognize the golf team's hard schedule and work," Davis said.





# Fore a Win

by By Kendra R. Buckles

When the women's golf team met before their 2005-2006 season, they decided on a team goal- to place in the top three at the Ohio Valley Conference Championship in April. Though the women did not attain their goal, the meeting foreshadowed an unexpected aspect of their season- unprecedented team unity.

"We were hoping for top three at conference, but it didn't happen," Kelly Stout, the only senior on the team, said. "However, this year was the best yet as far as personalities working well together. We had a lot of fun on the trips, and we even hung out other than practice. That is a first in the four years I have played here."

Practicing rigorously everyday of the week except Fridays and Sundays, the team played through eight tournaments this year,



which led them to the OVC championship. Both their fall and spring seasons consisted of four tournaments each.

The team began their fall season with the Alabama/Ann Rhoads Intercollegiate in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on September 18th. Though the team finished 15th, it was the breakout tournament for freshman Maria Troche, who placed 22nd in her first college tournament.

Next, on October 10th, the team traveled to Jacksonville, Ala., for the Chris Bannister Gamecock Classic where the women finish 10th overall. The women took a week off and then headed to Clarksville, Tenn., for the Austin Peay Intercollegiate Tournament on Oct. 24-25. They placed eighth out of 17 teams.

The fall season concluded in Montgomery, Ala., at the Troy University Women's Invitational. The team battled rainy conditions to finish in seventh place. The tournament was memorable for Troche who finished ninth, the highest individual finish for the women in the fall.

The spring season began for the women when they placed eighth at the Ann Rhoads-Birmingham-Southern Shootout at the Bent Brook Golf Course in McCalla, Ala., on February 21.

They continued the season on March 6 when they attended the USA Lady Jaguar Invitational hosted by the University of South Alabama at the Azalea City Golf Course. They finished their second

tournament of the spring season by finishing 16th overall.

For the next tournament the team was able to stay in Birmingham. They tied for eighth of 15 teams at their own Samford University Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament at Timberline Golf Course on March 21. Courtney Warr was the top-finisher for the team at 12th place overall.

The last tournament before the OVC championship was the Lady Eagle Classic, hosted by Southern Miss, at the Canebrake Country Club in Hattiesburg, Miss., April 10-11. The team placed ninth out of 11 by shooting a combined score of 961.

Troche tied for 19th in the tournament, with a combined score of 233. Kelly Stout, 30th overall, Stephanie Larson, 39th overall, Courtney Warr, 43rd overall, and Ashleigh Hicks, 52nd, joined Troche for the Bulldog's top five in their final tournament.

"This tournament was our season highlight. We had our best total round score as a team. We shot a 313 total in the second round," Stout said. "We were all really excited about that."

Next, the women traveled to the Drake Creek Golf Club in Ledbetter, Ky., on April 18-19 for the OVC Championship. Though they had hoped to finish in the top three, they finished seventh overall with a combined score of 972. Rival Jacksonville State won the tournament with a combined score of 915.

Troche led the team in the tournament.

She finished 15th overall with a combined score of 237 in her first conference championship.

The tournament was also memorable for senior Kelly Stout. Not only did she finish 32nd overall, but she birdied on her very last hole as a Bulldog. Three other women placed in the tournament. Courtney Warr tied for 16th overall, Kellie O'Connell finished 29th overall, and Stephanie Larson finished 34th.

Though the season ended at the OVC tournament in Kentucky, the awards did not end for Troche. The outstanding freshman was named OVC Freshman of the Year. She was a unanimous pick for the award, which was voted on by conference coaches.

Troche was also named to the OVC All-Newcomer team and was awarded second-team All-Ohio Valley Conference.

"Maria played really well this season. She had some great rounds, and I was really happy for her," Stout said. "Everyone on the team was really excited for her."

Though the team did not meet their goals this season, Stout is confident they will improve in the future. "I really think that everyone on the team has incredible talent, but we just haven't played to our potential. We have more talent than our scores showed," Stout said. "We have a lot of young players that will eventually play really well on the college level."



Stuart Misner pelts the tennis ball to his opponent.



# MAKING RAQUET on the Court

by Britney Almaguer

Instead of finding the usual tennis courts behind Seibert Stadium with stray balls rolling aimlessly, the Samford tennis teams found huge mounds of dirt and the occasional bulldozer. The construction of the new multipurpose sports center not only displaced west campus parking, but the tennis teams were forced to move as well.

The men's and women's tennis teams were relocated to the tennis courts at the Lakeshore Foundation, behind Southern Progress. Although a change in routine, the team handled it in stride. "It was different, but you get used to it," sophomore Hank Grant said. "A tennis court is a tennis court, but it is a lot more difficult to get people to come out and watch."

In the fall, tennis is more of an individual sport. This is the time for the men to start conditioning and begin preparation for the matches in the spring, which also helps form the lineup for the upcoming season.

This past fall ended with an invitational hosted by Birmingham Southern College. The men held strong and defeated two out of the three teams they competed against, Birmingham Southern and Jacksonville State.

The team headed into the spring with confidence after their first win against Northern Alabama. However, the season took an uncertain turn when senior player Manuel Miletic was sidelined due to a knee injury.

While unsure about their season's future, the men pooled their resources and finished with an impressive season behind them. Competing against nationally ranked teams such as Alabama, Auburn, Southern Mississippi, Memphis and Southeastern Louisiana, the men came out with a 16-10 overall record.

To add to the excitement of the upcoming OVC tournament, the Bulldogs defeated Jacksonville State 4-0. Junior player, Renan Silveira, said, "At Jacksonville

State, the team really pulled together. Our performance showed how good we could be when we all played together."

Although the Bulldogs were defeated the following week at the OVC in a 4-3 win for Tennessee Tech, the team members said they are proud of their season. "I think we did really well considering our number one guy had to sit out this season," Misner said. "I'm very proud of our team. We could've had a horrible season, but instead it turned out to be really good."

**"Our performance showed how good we could be when we all played together."**

Finishing 9-0, Grant and junior Stuart Misner, came out undefeated in the conference doubles match for the second consecutive year. Among other honors the men's team received, Misner and senior player Johnny Griffie were named All-OVC. Misner was named first-team All OVC after completing 13-7 overall and 9-0 in the conference tournament. Griffie was named second-team All OVC for his performance of 13-5 overall and 8-1 in the conference.

On a note of his own, junior player Bradley Weaver was recognized for his dedication to strength training and conditioning when he was named the National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American. This honor, awarded through nominations, was given to only 242 collegiate athletes out of 160 schools.

Looking back on the season, Grant said team camaraderie was an important aspect of the team's success. "The team unity was awesome," Grant said. "Just good friends who trust each other out on the courts made the work a lot easier." ♦



Lauren Pitcher runs up the court with her racket ready.



# Serving Up SUCCESS

by Britney Almaguer

The goal was set before the season even began. This year was going to be the year the Samford women's tennis team would reclaim the title of Ohio Valley Conference champions. After winning the title of Conference champions in 2004, their sights have never strayed far from that honor.

The women's team held tightly to that goal the entire year. "The team came together better this year," freshman Amber Dyar said. "Every single person was fighting for every point." Several new additions strengthened the team's already powerful team. Freshmen such as Whitney Flesher, Whitnie Warren, and red shirt Dyar, helped increase the women's team.

The women finished the fall season with two wins in the Birmingham Southern Tournament. First, they defeated OVC opponent Jacksonville State 7-0. The women won all six singles matches and two of the three doubles matches in the tournament. They continued this dominance and won 6-1 over rival Birmingham-Southern. The spring season followed suit and started with a win against Northern Alabama, 7-0.

While enduring two hours of practice a day, they worked harder than ever and with even more determination throughout the season. Not once, according to Dyar, did they lose focus of the end goal. Even moving practice to an off-campus location, the Lakeshore Foundation, didn't stifle their determination. They adjusted quickly to the change, and in the end, it worked out in their favor. It provided fewer distractions and gave them more of a chance to focus on techniques to reach their ambitions.

With all of these factors, it was just the ticket to send them straight to their second OVC win in three years. The women headed into conference with very few losses and a

strong season under their belt. The team rose to the top after being seeded as the number two team in the tournament. After beating one of their main competitors, the Murray State Racers, in the second round, the team said they knew they were on their way to victory. This gave them added confidence and by the third round, the tennis team sealed a 4-2 success over the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles.

Notable performances during the season

**"The team came together better this year. Every single person was fighting for every point."**

included sophomore Katie McMiller, who received first team All OVC honors for her accomplishments at the conference tournament. She came out of the season with 14-4 overall and 9-1 in singles. Junior player Sarah McKey and sophomore Anna Jackson were named second team All OVC. They finished overall with a 12-2 and 11-7, respectively. McMiller and Jackson were also named OVC Athletes of the Week during the course of the season.

As the women geared-up for their trip to the 2006 NCAA Tournament, they finally saw their hard work come together. The quickly approaching tournament was not only evident in their practices, with more match play and less conditioning, but also in the obvious excitement. "It is really neat because it's something you don't expect from a small school in Alabama," Dyar said. While this may be true, in the words of American tennis player Arthur Ash, "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." ♦





## Basketball



## Soccer



Men's Division Champions  
Sigma Chi



Co-Rec Division Champions  
The Stuff

## Dodgeball



Men's Division Champions  
Los Locos Banditos



Women's Division Champions  
Las Locas

## Flag Football



Women's Division I Champions  
AD Pi-1



Women's Division II Champions  
The Dirty Angels

## Softball



Men's Division I Champions  
Sigma Chi



Men's Division II Champions  
The Artic Foxes

## Soccer



Women's Division I Champions  
ADPi



Women's Division II Champions  
Zeta Tau Alpha

## Dodgeball



Co-Rec Division Champions  
Ba Ba Ba Bam

## Flag Football



Men's Division I Champions  
Fighting Redwood

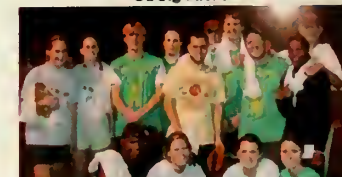


Men's Division II Champions  
Film Actors Guild

## Softball



Women's Division Champions  
Da Big Sticks



CoRec Division Champions  
CS Haters





# Sweat for a Smile

by Britney Almaguer

How did Samford stay happy? Was it a beautiful day lounging on the quad, a favorite dessert in the caf, an "A" on a test, a paper extension or a cancelled class? All of these may have brightened a student's day but one more thing must be added: intramural sports.

Exercise produces endorphins, and the endorphins have proved to help boost emotional and physical well-being. Some even claim they make you happy, which is why intramurals kept the high morale on campus. According to Nick Madsen, head of campus recreation, "Intramural sports are a way for the students to stay active at the recreational level. Intramurals give students the chance to stay active and competitive after high school. Many of the students who played in high school want to go on and play in college, maybe just not at the varsity level." Fifteen intramurals were offered in the fall and spring semesters including flag football, bowling, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, tennis,

volleyball, kickball, racquetball, basketball, bowling, ultimate frisbee, soccer, softball, dodgeball and tennis.

For those who worried that it might get too competitive or not serious enough, never fear for there were two leagues. The A league was competitive and the B league was more recreational.

Senior Rob Culpepper, who participated in all but a handful of the intramural sports offered, said, "It's a great excuse for a study break because you have a team out there counting on you showing up. It really brings people together beyond the classroom, and it promotes fitness and a fun, active lifestyle. It's like going to the gym in disguise."

Intramurals were open to any student, faculty, or faculty family member and were completely student run. Madsen said that their philosophy on intramurals is, "For the students, by the students." Even though students were the officials and referees for the games, Madsen said that a professional staff was put out there to make sure the students did their job.

Although 15 sports were offered, Madsen said, "If students have any ideas of a new intramural sport, we're willing to work with them and try it out."



# Relieving Stress, One Game at a Time

By Hunter Denson

To relieve stress, some students hurled balls and Frisbees at each other, literally. This year dodgeball and ultimate Frisbee were introduced into intramural sports, offering three divisions including men's, women's and co-recreational.

Several teams formed, each showing off their members' ability at the art of ducking and dodging as they made their way toward the culmination of their efforts: the intramural championship and the bragging rights that come with it.

These matches were events of extreme intensity, and many were accented by loud music and fierce followings of fans that cheered on their teams, hoping for a victory. Those on the sideline watching were treated to an amazing display of highly skilled teams fighting for victory with everything they had.

Shanna Killebrew, a sophomore who played for the co-recreational dodgeball team known as the "Gypsies" said, "The level of play was very intense and full of drama." She also said that the skills of those involved were very high, making for close and exciting games. While the teams wanted to win their division and devastate

the opposition, many just enjoyed the opportunity to play and take part in a team.

"Definitely, the most important part of the season was just to enjoy it and have fun," sophomore Zeta dodgeball teammate Hannah Gilstrap said. Even though the Zeta team fell short of the championship, Gilstrap said they enjoyed every game.

**"Definitely, the most important part of the season was just to enjoy it and have fun."**

As the regular season came to a close, teams began preparing for the end-of-the-year tournament, which would decide what team would be the league champion.

The format of the tournament was single elimination, making the margin for error very small, and thereby increased pressure for the teams as they went into the tournament. After the dust settled, only three teams still stood to accept their place as the 2005 intramural champions. Representing the Men's division was Los





Far left: Jason Wicker gets ready to pummel the ball at his opposing team.

Left: Andrew Searles prepares to dodge as he stands ready with a ball in his hand for his defense.

Below: Ultimate Frisbee players display an intense show of skill and athletic ability.



Locos Banditos, fierce competitors with a Latin flair.

Winning the Women's division were their counterparts Las Locas, and taking the Co-Recreational title was that sound of terror that plagued those whom they played, Ba Ba Ba Bam!

As exciting as the dodgeball season was, ultimate Frisbee proved to be no slouch when it came to excitement and drama. Strategically played by tossing a disk from teammate to teammate down the field and into the other team's end zone, ultimate Frisbee made for an enjoyable and challenging sport for anyone who participated.

The season was filled with many spectacular grabs and gut wrenching downfield drives throughout the semester. Though the games were particularly intense and competitive, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Joseph Rhea, a member of the team Something Clever said, "I just enjoyed the opportunity to go out and play. The most important factor was just to have fun, win or lose." ♦



A girls intramural team  
takes the field for game of  
flag football.



# A Race for the Flag

Joshua Rutledge

Flag football is traditionally the largest intramural sport on campus. From the first week of competition there was no lack of excitement as 700 students, making up 70 teams of 10 players, competed in two leagues, A-League and B-League.

The leagues were marked by teams who took the competition quite seriously and teams that played in a more laid-back, fun environment.

"Men and women's A-league was the competitive league, and men and women's B-league was the recreational. A-league could get pretty intense. We have to remind them every once in awhile that we are competing for a t-shirt," coordinator of campus recreation Nick Madsen said.

A-league's Alpha Delta Pi picked up where they left off the previous year, with their defense pulling them through the games. "In the last three years, we have been scored upon only once," Team Captain Andrea Redus said. So far, they are undefeated.

Along with Alpha Delta Pi, A-league teams such as the Nasties, a team compiled of players from the baseball team, also enjoyed success as they strived to experience a stiffer and stronger field of opponents. "In the past, there have been teams that dominate, but this year it was pretty spread out. Anybody could win," Madsen said.

In the more recreational B-league, fun and less competitiveness marked the makeup of the different teams. For Kristen Philips, a freshman player for the Pittman Princess', intramural flag football was far from intense. "We're not very athletic or anything like that, but we have a lot of fun," Philips said.

With the difference between A-league and B-league teams being the difference between serious competition and laid-back fun, a mistake in scheduling placed the freshman of Smith 2nd West's team, Kyle-A-Paloosa, in a place they didn't expect

to be, A-League. "We got put in the A-league, and we haven't even scored yet, but the team is still having fun," team captain Andy Sisk said.

Games were filled with dramatic plays, some planned and others just the luck of the draw. Leaping into the air, Sigma Chi quarterback Dan Strickland batted the football backwards to his teammate, Josh Williams, just before Strickland's flag was pulled.

"Making a 360 degree turn in midair, then taking the ball up the field for about a 40 yard gain, it was almost as if Josh had planned it," Madsen said. "There have been the usual statue of liberty plays and stuff like that, but that one play stands out in my mind."

The Turf Terrors, made up of a group of freshmen girls from Vail dorm, didn't get

**"We're not very athletic or anything, but we have a lot of fun."**

a chance to play their first couple games due to forfeit, but they got the chance to play their first game during a rainstorm against The Quixotic. "We finally got to play our third game. We played in the rain, and it was great," Erin Bradford said. The Turf Terrors made the most of limited playing time, defeating The Quixotic 52-0.

For a number of teams, the most exciting game came during family weekend when two women's teams competed on the new turf at Seibert Stadium. "I thought it was exciting playing on the turf. Our team was hyped. We played a B-team, so we thought we would win easily, but they kept us on our toes," Las Locas player Stephanie Norwood said, "It was nice." to have more than seven people come watch us play. It added a different feel to the game." ♦

# Playing for the Love of the Game

by Jena Hippensteel

As soon as the flowers started blooming and the chill of winter subsided, many Samford students put down their textbooks and picked up their softball gloves. With 50 different leagues, including both men and women's teams, intramural softball was the largest co-recreation game on campus.

The games were played at night either on the intramural field or the soccer field. Each team was guaranteed at least four games, and they were rated on sportsmanship. The rules of the game were different than the rules of regular softball: the games were limited to seven innings or 50 minutes, the count began at one and one, two fouls were considered a strike, no bunting was allowed and only one homerun per game was allowed for each team.

"Because only one homerun is allowed and the fields are small, players have to use strategy," Nick Madsen, director of Campus Recreation, said.

A team consisted of at least eight players and no more than 10. For co-rec teams, an equal number of males and females had to be on the team.

Natalie Mayor, a freshman on the AOPi team said, "It's fun and gets pretty intense. We play on grass fields, which isn't as great as the real field, but the game helps get out some aggression built up from the week."

On April 30th, playoffs hosted a number of teams including Samford Sunday, the Fighting Emus, On the Way Out, Family Reunion, Houdini's Last Stand, Belskis' Beauties, Dirty Dozen and Team 10 in the first round. The Ambulance Chasers, Values Violators, Cincinnati Bowties and the Arctic Foxes proceeded into the second with byes in the first.



On May 8th, teams played in four tournaments to determine the champions of the season. For co-rec CS Haters beat Obliterated with a final score of 10-9. In the women's league, Da Big Sticks won against the Pharmgirls 9-6. Men's A League was between Pharmboys and Sigma Chi with an 8-2 victory. And for the Men's B League, the Artic Foxes beat Family Reunion 10-2.

**"We had some pretty awesome catches and a pretty awesome team."**

The winners of the championship game received t-shirts. "It's all about the coveted t-shirts," campus recreation intern Lance

Kearns said. "We had some pretty awesome catches and a pretty awesome team. We lost a lot but overall it was tons of fun. I think I'm going to play again next year," Meg Lozner, a member of the Red Jaguars team, said. ♦





Opposite page: Amber Tatum practices her swing.

Left: Meg Lozner completes her pitch.

Top right: Fans cheer as an intramural softball player hits the ball.

Bottom left: Rachel Lowrey prepares for the pitch.

Bottom right: A member of the ADPi team throws a pitch.









# Connect

**con·nect** (k-nkt)

**con·nect·ed, con·nect·ing, con·nects**

v. Participating in various activities on campus including extracurricular clubs

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Above from left to right: The Student Executive Board of SGA: Matt Harrison, Melissa Poole, Casey Clardy, Katie Horrell, Daniel Crane, Christina Knox, Austin Bourgeois and Taylor Clement.

Right: Students work in the SGA office.





# Behind the Scenes

by Suzie Horner

Most Samford students see the Student Government Association as the planner of events such as Welcome Back, Homecoming and Step Sing. However, the events are only a fraction of what makes up the SGA. Senators meet weekly to evaluate various improvements that can be made on campus, executive officers meet to discuss how they can be a better liaison between faculty and students and appointed students assess thousands of parking tickets a month.

Matt Harrison, president of the SGA, oversees all the various branches. When he was elected, Harrison said that he had to commit to taking fewer school hours in order to have the time to devote to the position. He meets weekly with Dean Franklin, the executive board and many other administrators, students and faculty to hear their concerns.

"To be honest, I'm still not sure what I'm supposed to do. Everyone is in charge of a particular branch within SGA, but I have no specific duties," Harrison said. "Much of my time is spent in meetings with administrators, and I find that I spend less and less time working with actual students. It is frustrating because many administrators look to me to get a pulse of the student body when I'm actually fairly removed."

The vice president for senate, Austin Bourgeois, said that working with the different personalities in the SGA office has helped shape his character.

"I have learned from Melissa Poole and

Christina Knox, activity chairs, that if you are going to do something, to do it well, and from Taylor Clement, the treasurer, I have learned to speak up for something you believe in," Bourgeois said. "Daniel Crane, the chief of staff, has taught me that hard work pays off, and Katie Horrell, the executive assistant, balances us all out. She gives her unbiased opinion when you ask for it. I've also learned how to be genuine

**"SGA is like a real-world business internship. You learn how to work but also how to relate to different types of people."**

and listen to people from Matt."

Although a lot of work is done in the SGA office, every now and then there is some time to be loose with each other. Melissa Poole, the vice president for activities, said that sometimes you can find the officers goofing off during late hours.

"One time we all had a dance party in the office at one o'clock in the morning," Poole said. "We even have had a 'massage fest' late at night, too. Everyone has become my family, especially Christina since we spend so much time together. You definitely learn how to mix business with fun."

Despite having a little fun every now and then, the SGA officers still do their job representing the student body. Harrison said that he sees how each officer fits together to accomplish the mission

of SGA, which is to represent students to faculty and administrators and to provide events and services for the benefit of students.

"Praise the Lord for the other members of the SGA who actually get something done while I'm busy running my mouth," Harrison said. "It is an honor to be entrusted with the duties of SGA president, yet it is a personal challenge to me to effectively represent students."

The SGA runs with a combination of the officer's time, hard-work and creative ideas. Bourgeois said that each member of the executive board learns from each other, as well as learn how to work with different personalities.

"SGA is like a real-world business internship," Bourgeois said. "You learn how to work but also how to relate to different types of people. It has been a great experience." ♦

# Marching to the Beat

by Rachel Bennett

Left foot, right foot, take a huge breath and play. Don't mess up the formations and keep up with the beat of the song. For members of the band, these words are all too familiar.

The band began the year much earlier than other Samford students with the annual two weeks of band camp which consisted of instrument sectionals and marching formation lessons.

But the band did more than just practice. It also welcomed its new members into band families which were headed by senior "bandies" who hosted several outings throughout the year for their group.

After they practiced, the band was geared up for their first performances of the marching season: the football games. Latin and jazz were the themes for this year's marching performances. Many students said the audience loved this year's themes because they were upbeat and exciting. "The audience and the performers enjoyed it on both sides," freshman pre-pharmacy major Kalah Turner said.

In addition to the usual marches, the band also performed in the Birmingham Veteran's Day parade. This was a highlight of the year for many band members because of the solemn reminder of all who gave their lives for their country.

The marching season did not end until the last basketball game of 2005. By then the band's concert season was in full swing with the onslaught of Christmas. Each year the band performs a Christmas concert, and this year was no different.

After Christmas break, the band prepared for a tour of performances to schools in Atlanta area. The spring outdoor concert in April at Samford was last big event of the year.



Although this was the first year the band was without its long-time director, Jon Remely, the new director Phil Min said the band adjusted very well to his leadership. Not only did their cooperation make his job easier, but it also allowed the band to grow as a team and perform their best.

"They are all dedicated and good members and want to have a good time, too, which makes the job worthwhile," Min said. The band participants also had the same feeling about him. "He made it a lot of fun," senior early childhood development major Lauren Gilbert said.

"The best part about band was being able to do something I love with people who love it as well," Turner said.





Above left: The marching band exits the stands for their half time show.

Above: The band and colorguard perform their latin and jazz inspired show.

Left: The drum line excites students for the Homecoming game.







Students learn the basics of swing dancing.

Far right: A couple twirls to the beat while swing dancing at Swing Kids



# Shall We Dance?

by Katie Bullock

Feet moved rapidly across the hard wood of a gym floor. Sounds of laughter and music filled the air as eager students boldly showed off their dancing skills. In this laid-back atmosphere, it's no surprise that students continually returned every week to learn new steps at Swing Kids.

On Thursday nights in Bashinsky Fieldhouse, starting around 9 pm, the music played and shrieks of delight were heard as feet went flying on the dance floor. It became a drop-in dance party where students could come and go all night, using it as a study break for that massive midterm on Friday morning or their once-a-week shin-dig with no curfew.

Swing Kids was not limited to those with previous dance knowledge. For some regulars, the newcomers who had never danced before were their favorite dance partners. The "regulars" who made Swing Kids a priority to their weekly activities included those with "diverse backgrounds and fields of study creating a range of random experiences," said Swing Kids secretary Lauren DeCarlo, a senior religion major.

As one of the most diverse groups on Samford's campus, members of Swing Kids gravitated to each other every week to

dance, but they also ate together in the Caf and hosted movie nights "It's like a family," Elizabeth Harris, Swing Kids' Co-Publicity officer and sophomore pre-pharmacy major said. Member diversity ranged from interior design to geography, religion to history, Greek to independent and more. Similarly, the age of this group ranged from freshmen to alumni and included local Birmingham residents, even some members of the Birmingham Ballroom Dance Association.

So how did such different people become friends? "It began simply as a place for Samford people to have a place

**"We are the embodiment of an ideal: We're more than dancers, more than typical college kids. We're the Swing Kids."**

to do swing/ballroom when no other places in Birmingham offered the chance. Swing Kids has grown to be a great social organization that rivals the more formal organizations on campus. Despite its lack of dues, dress codes and other tactics used to develop loyalty, Swing Kids still succeeds. It does so with the simple request, 'Give

it a try...if you don't like it that's ok with us.' Many come and some stay. Those who keep coming each week form one of the most unique groups of friends on campus. That is why we dance. That is why we keep coming back," said Chris Davis, a 2004 alumni history major.

Shylan Bearden, Swing Kids' Vice-President/Treasurer, a junior interior design major said, "Dancing is such a joy and relief to me that were I to miss swing for even one week would seriously hamper my mental stability and nobody wants that! It also gives me an outlet to express who I am." When asked what made her start coming to Swing Kids, she said, "I love to dance!"

Jessica Baril, a sophomore religion major described Swing Kids dancing as "freeing." "You and your partner become one on the dance floor. The dance becomes part of you as you add your own style and slip in your favorite moves. It is so much fun," Baril said.

The guys get excited about the stunts they do at Swing Kids. While safety is always a key element of learning the moves, these guys and their dance partners get a little daring and creative. Senior religion major Andrew Burrow said the coolest stunt he has done was when he jumped over a girl's head while horizontal to the ground. He prefers "the one-hand-floorspin-pullthrough." "When it works, few things are sweeter," Davis said.

David Thornton, Swing Kids' President and senior Spanish major summed up the mission and truly the essence of Swing Kids when he said, "Swing Kids has been called a place, even a family, among other things. But really the Swing Kids are not limited to a place or to a group of people. We are the embodiment of an ideal: a deep conviction that dance is an art form that expresses everything from fear to joy to stress-relief to just plain fun. We're more than dancers, more than typical college kids. We're the Swing Kids." ♦



# Discovering Diversity

by Laura Dozier

What began as a small group of students who enjoyed going to international festivals has become a club that shows Samford students the benefits of diversity.

"It began as a social club," said International Club president Hannah Gordon. "They were letting people be aware of events in the community."

The International Club was officially founded in 2003 with the purpose of promoting awareness, respect and appreciation for varied cultural heritages in the diverse family of Samford University. Throughout the year, International Club supports several activities that serve its mission.

Celebration of Cultures is one way the International Club helps promote cultural unity on campus. During a week in November, special events were scheduled to create an international awareness on campus. Speakers came and talked about international topics and movies were available for free to students. The Caf was also involved. Each day, a different ethnic food was served during lunch.

One of the main activities of the week was a drum circle led by John Scalici, in which 50 students beat drums for two hours.

"The drum circle was huge," Gordon said. Scalici was hired by the International Club to give students the opportunity to experience such a unique experience. Scalici travels the country leading drum circles like the one students participated in during Celebration of Cultures.

Celebration of Cultures was a success for the International Club, and they hope to have similar events next year.

In order to fulfill its purpose more effectively, the International Club has made several changes this year. "We're becoming more organized and planning more events," Gordon said.

**"We need to learn about each other by crossing cultural barriers. And International Club is helping to do that."**

In addition to preparing events for the entire campus, the International Club also offers members-only activities. "We had a sushi party," Gordon said. Two Korean students taught 20 members how to make sushi, which helped students interact with each other and cross cultural barriers.

In addition to organizing and planning, the International Club has been involved in renovating the Rosa Room in Beeson



Woods. Soon the Rosa Room will be used as a community room for students to use. The International Club, in collaboration with Residence Life, is renovating the Rosa Room in Beeson woods in the hope that it will be used for tutoring and as a student hangout.

This year the International Club has increased its influence on campus by joining with a new program called "Cultural Links." Cultural Links was developed by Jennifer Hitt, a senior education major, as a way to welcome incoming international students. Cultural Links helps international students adjust to American culture and promotes intercultural learning by matching international and American students.

"It's a work in progress," Hitt said. Hitt hopes that Samford can continue to get involved in reaching out to international students.

"We need to learn about each other by crossing cultural barriers," Hitt said. "And International Club is helping to do that." ♦





Left: International Club members at their weekly meeting.

Directly below: President of International Club Hannah Gordon speaks about diversity.

Below: The members take a break from the meeting to pose for a picture.







# Notes of Praise

by Amberleigh Kirk

If you walked behind Reid Chapel on a Thursday evening you probably heard one of two things: laughter or voices singing worship songs to our King. In other words you walked past the weekly rehearsal of Student Ministries Choir.

SMC is a student led choir under the umbrella of Student Ministries. This year about ninety people were involved in choir. A large part of the membership had prior experience in a church choir and desired to find the same fellowship in college. Other members just wanted to be a part of a choir, and SMC was their first opportunity to join one.

SMC is not just a choir. Just about any member will tell you that it's a family. According to third year pharmacy student Shelia Goebel, "Thursday night with SMC is like Friday game night with your family." Transfer student Brent Fielder said, "Transferring as a junior was really hard, so it was great to find a groups of people who share the same passions as me and who treated me like a member of the family."

The choir meets on Thursdays not only to learn music but to spend time with each

other through prayer groups and fellowship. SMC members strived to show their love for God by loving people, whether it involved talking with the person sitting next to them or repairing a home destroyed by Katrina.

SMC members seek to learn how to live Hebrews 10:24: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Another theme verse for SMC is 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

Students may have heard SMC singing during convo, Lighting of the Way or Student Ministries Presents. SMC also went beyond the gates of Sanford by singing at local churches and taking two mission trips. In the fall SMC went on a weekend trip to Mobile and worked with a hurricane relief group in Pascagoula, Miss. as well as with an International Ministries Center. Over spring break the group teamed up with fellow Student Ministries' organization

In His Hands and traveled to Richmond, Va. In Richmond, they worked with a deaf church and an English as a Second Language program as well as serving with local church's prison ministry. The trip ended with a stop in Washington D.C. and a final concert in our nation's capital. These trips displayed the heart of SMC and its

**"Thursday night with SMC is like Friday game night with your family."**

desire to be the body of Christ in action.

It doesn't matter if it was in Birmingham, Mobile or Richmond, the members of SMC were "doers of the Word" and not merely hearers. "I like being able to serve God in the Birmingham community and around the South through singing," freshman business major Allison Nygaard said.

Director Holly Kirtley said, "SMC is like my family. We sing beautifully. We goof off together. It's the place I go when I've had a rough day and need prayer. It's also the place I go when I want to have a great time with friends. These are the best friends I've made in college." ♦





Far left: Tim Worley, Matt Andrews and Jessica Baril goofing off after a concert.

Left: Director Holly Kirtley helps with Hurricane Katrina clean up in Pascagoula.

Below: SMC singing at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Mobile.







Students walk downtown with servant's hearts as they prepare to be homeless for a night.



# one *homeless* night

by Suzie Horner

As most of us go about our comfortable lives here at Samford, a completely different world lies beyond us. Thousands of impoverished people roam the streets of Birmingham daily in search of food, water and shelter. On Friday, October 14, 2005 Samford students saw a glimpse of what this kind of life is like.

During Urban Mission's Week at Samford, the Community Involvement branch of Student Ministries fulfilled their purpose as an organization by actively getting involved in the community. Community Involvement Coordinator, Candis Garner wanted students to learn an awareness of poverty, but also experience poverty first-hand. We had heard about ways to get involved all week, but this was a tangible way to serve," Garner said.

Twelve Samford students met at 4 p.m. on Friday at the Church of Reconciler in downtown Birmingham where the pastor, Lawton Higgs shared shocking poverty statistics, as well as painted a real-world picture of poverty.

Garner, a junior elementary education major, said Higgs brought up points that she had not considered. "I have never thought about that they have no where to go to the restroom," Garner said. "We at least had a key to the church's bathrooms."

After Higgs spoke, the 12 students split into two groups, one group to the Firehouse Shelter and another to Lynn Park.

Meredith Wells, a sophomore nursing major, went to the Firehouse Shelter, an all men's housing, where they served the men food, played chess and visited. "When we arrived, the men were finishing up drug rehab. You could just tell that the men were

hardened to life," Wells said. "All they are looking for is food and shelter and taking life day by day."

Garner said Firehouse accepts 40 men a night until 6 p.m. Lights-out is at 8:30, and men have to leave by 5 a.m. "The shelter enforces these rules to keep men off the streets during the bad hours," Garner said. "The later in the night, the more apt the men are to come in contact with drugs, alcohol, and violence."

Contrary to stereotypical beliefs, the homeless travel great distances. In fact, Hurricane Katrina has added to the number of out-of-state homeless in Birmingham. "One man was a contractor from Houston and had lost his job because a contractor from New Orleans came and took it from him," Garner said. "He told me that it was a hard thing to break his pride and be on the streets."

Other students went to Linn Park, where they passed out food prepared by local churches to homeless men, women, and even children.

Sam Noone, a freshman undeclared major, said that he didn't really know what to chat about with the people. "It was kinda hard to know what to talk about," Noone said. "You don't want to be offensive or condemning. You have to set aside all prejudices that you have."

One man surprised Noone with his planned ambitions. "All this one guy wanted to do was to get married, and he felt like he had a chance," Noone said. "He still had hopes and dreams and felt like they were achievable."

After the students had gone to Firehouse and Lynn Park, they met back at the Church

of Reconciler where Rob Culpepper led them with worship songs. "It was so neat to sing all together after an experience like that," Wells said. "No one complained because we had all been truly humbled."

At 11 p.m., Panera Bread brought the students bread and soup unexpectedly. Garner said that they had not eaten the whole time. "It was a glimpse of not knowing when or where your next meal is coming from," Garner said.

On the concrete loading dock of the church, students slept in cardboard boxes and were allowed only one blanket. "It was cold, but it was the best feeling waking up the next morning tired and sick," Wells said. "I can't imagine how they (homeless) stay warm."

The next morning at 5 a.m., the students woke and went to the Salvation Army on 8th avenue to serve food for an hour. "Talking to the homeless at Salvation Army was hard. At first you don't know what to say," Garner said. "I asked them how their day was going, and it seems that they have very frustrating days. I think they just stand in lines all day."

Overall, Samford students said they learned from the experience, while also being humbled by what they have.

"The best part is that you get to spend time with the people and show them love. Scripture talks about poor and needy, and we are actually helping them," Noone said. "You try to get past the bubble that our lives are in. When we go help, we get up out of our warm bed and safe environment, go help for a few hours, and then go back to Samford and eat a third of a full plate in the café. It helped me to be more thankful of that." ♦

# Gamma Sigma Sigma

## Girls with a mission

by Rachel Bennett

What is Gamma Sigma Sigma? GSS, or Girls Service Sorority, is dedicated to helping those around in need and the community through various service projects. The members come from all over campus, from every major, are of all ages and are all "brought together through service." Each entering member has a requirement of ten hours per semester to complete in service hours while senior members have a requirement of fifteen hours per semester. With all of the opportunities available to them, though few find this a hard requirement to meet.

The goal of GSS, according to President Claire Kimberly, "is to reach out to the community or even the school through service and to bring a group of young ladies together and bring bonds through service."

The girls volunteer themselves in the community with such projects as Jesse's Place, Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters and Kickin' It for Kids. "My favorite service project is helping with the Christmas party the Titusville Library hosts for needy children every year. I enjoy seeing the smiles on the children's faces as we play with them, read to them and give them Christmas gifts," said junior classics major Katherine Norton.

Also, the sorority responds to timely relief efforts as a result of recent disasters, such as hurricane relief. Yet not all of the service projects have a strictly serious undertone. One of the more popular projects is trick-or-treating for canned goods on Halloween night instead of candy. Not only do the girls gather hundreds of canned goods for United Way and dress up in their favorite costumes, but they might also get candy in the process.

The biggest accomplishment so far for GSS, in Kimberly's eyes, has been a book drive for tsunami relief to restock schools and libraries in Southeast Asia with the valuable books they lost. Over two thousand books were donated toward tsunami relief



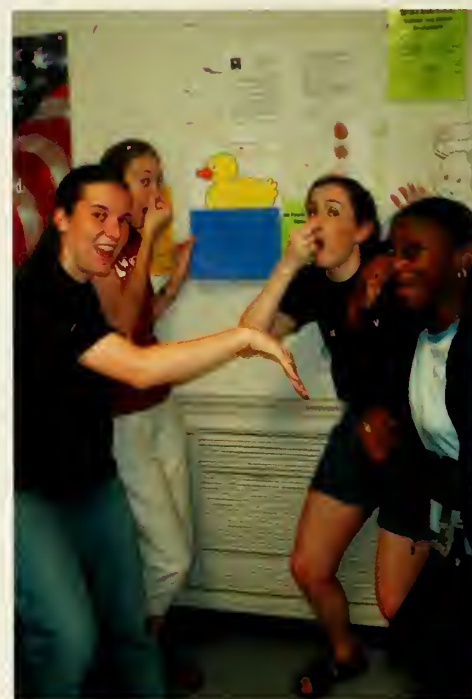
by Samford students and faculty alone. Kimberly said she loved calling up the United Postal Service to tell them that they had 31 boxes of books.

Each year, on average, ten girls rush for GSS. Junior biology major Tanya Humphries said, "I wanted to pledge so I could be more involved in service and because I already knew some of the girls and I knew how quality they were. I haven't been disappointed."

Girls in GSS spend their extra time working in the community around them and getting to know their fellow sisters better through the various social events the sorority hosts.

"We hold socials, pledge bashes, a formal every year, a retreat. We always have a Christmas party and random get togethers," Kimberly said.

In addition to their service in the Birmingham community, the girls travel to a national convention each year to meet their neighboring states' divisions of GSS. This year, they met up with a chapter from Georgia, with 150 members, and planned many group activities with them. The members of GSS are definitely not confined to Samford or even Alabama. ♦







Far left: Every spring Gamma Sigma Sigma has a formal for an end of the year celebration.

Left: During Fall retreat, Gamma Sigma Sigma travels to Atlanta. This retreat allows the girls to spend time getting to know the new members.

Below left: Acting silly, Tanya Humphries, Dana Springhall, Jasmine Bolden and Katherine Norton take a quick break while performing community service.

Below: Ladies of Gamma Sigma Sigma host annual family picnics during Homecoming.







# Engaging Students

## One Page at a Time

by Rod Evans

*Exodus, Entre Nous, Sojourn....Engage?* This year, *Engage*, a new student magazine on campus, graced many students' hands and eyes. *Engage* is a fresh publication designed with the Christian student in mind. The mission is to bridge the gap between the secular world and the Christian ideals that the college student might hold.

It is a step toward providing the Samford student with a glimpse of the outside world from a Christian perspective.

"As we live our lives as Christians," editor and sophomore journalism major Rob Collingsworth said, "it is important that we do not isolate ourselves from the culture that surrounds us and that we ask the really challenging questions as it relates to how to be Christians in this society."

"*Engage* magazine seeks to do just this," editor and sophomore graphic design major Bob Miller said. "It gives the college Christian an outlet to engage in intellectual conversation about the secular world."

*Engage* magazine began as just a concept, a simple idea to complete a project for Communication Arts, and this idea bloomed into so much more. Miller proposed a faith-based, student led magazine for the Samford community and approached Collingsworth about working in conjunction with him. From there they explored options to make this concept a reality and sought the help of Student Ministries.

Left: The third issue of *Engage* under revision.

Right: Rob Collingsworth, Bob Miller and Katie Lantz analyze *Engage* before it goes to the printer.





"I was so impressed with the idea," April Robinson, director of Student Ministries said. "These two students coming in as freshman, identifying an opportunity to build the Samford community and going after it wholeheartedly has made this one of the most rewarding experiences I've been a part of this year." Robinson suggested that they look to the Samford in Missions grant to provide the capital to fund this outreach, and she has continued to guide them since.

Sandifer-Stech director of Samford in Missions, approved the funding request for a faith-based community outreach initiative, and this began *Engage* magazine as Samford knows it.

"*Engage* coincides with the mission of the Samford in Missions grant of faith and vocation," Robinson said. "We wanted to extend that to include faith, vocation, and culture from a college Christian perspective."

"Each publication seeks to 'blur the line' between secularism and vocation, encouraging the Christian student in tangible print form to be active and proactive voices for the Gospel," Miller said.

The publication is a full color publication with an artistic style similar to *Relevant* magazine and is a product of great persistence and diligence. With every *Engage* magazine, it takes a tremendous amount of effort to bring the publication to life.

Dennis Jones, the production supervisor, helps the students with the publication design and also serves as the liaison between the magazine and Commercial Printing.

"It's amazing that two students can come up with a concept for a publication with no experience whatsoever, learning everything they need to know in a year's time," Jones said. "The 3rd issue coming up will look considerably different than the first issue because it is a growing experience, the progression of getting better at a craft as working in the field."

Even as Jones seeks to refine the publication and as Robinson seeks to give content direction, *Engage* runs primarily on the basis of student contributions including stories. In every publication, articles include pertinent issues about being a Christian college student and seeking a vocation, interviews with a Christian musician or writer, and music and movie reviews.

"Tracking down story content can be very tedious," Miller said. "But God has been very providential in that aspect, providing us with great opportunities to achieve interviews with Donald Miller, Derek Webb, Mutemath and the like." Both Miller and Collingsworth said they believe that the availability of these interviews was a testament of "ask and you shall receive."

*Engage* magazine puts a bold and fresh

perspective on campus. With its colorful artistry and the flavor of its content, this magazine seeks to delve into culture from the Christian student's perspective by encouraging them to engage themselves in the culture around them.

"*Engage* seeks to reach out to people without turning them off," Miller said. "The hope," Collingsworth said, "is that the content will foster discussion on Christianity and promote the use of culture as a medium to expound on the role of Christianity in society."

"*Engage* is the first publication of its kind," senior political science major Cappy Martin said. "I think that's what makes it such an interesting concept at a Christian institution. We are to be in the world and not of it and *Engage* embodies that notion." ♦





Cheryl MacGavock,  
Brooke Ratchford,  
Marissa Benjamin, Haley  
Freedman and Angela  
Brantley at the ITeach  
conference.





# A Celebration for Education

by Rachael Bennett

Everyone was a student at some point in time, even your professors. Kappa Delta Pi is the Honorary Society for the education majors. According to Carol Dean, this year's sponsor and chair of education, "It takes very seriously the fact it is an honorary society." Samford's KDPI chapter, which initiated 49 new members last year, is very active both nationally and locally. This year was no different than any other.

Some of the highlights this year included giving back to the community with a book drive for Katrina victims, a clothing drive for Brighton School and the "Reading is Fun" program, in which the students read to and performed books for the Glen Oaks Elementary School Kids to encourage them to read. To senior elementary major and vice president of KDPI Marissa Benjamin, this was the most important activity they hosted all year.

"We felt like it was important for us to give back to our community and what better way to serve as future teachers, than to celebrate reading," Benjamin said.

On top of this, Kappa Delta Pi regularly attends national events. This year, KDPI's national convocation was held in Orlando, Fla. Members meet Harry Wong, the author of *The First Days of School*, which is a book full of tips for teachers in becoming more effective.

"Meeting Wong was kind of a big deal because in one of our classes our professor showed us all of Harry Wong's videos so we felt like we kind of knew him already," senior early childhood education major and secretary of KDPI Haley Freeman said.

Not only did Samford's chapter attend, but they also participated. Members Julie Piazza, Haley Freedman, Cheryl McGavock

and Angela Brantley presented on curriculum and problem based learning.

KDPI also hosted an "I Teach" conference at Samford with chapters from the entire southeast attending. Because Samford hosted "I Teach," the members of KDPI choose which speakers they wanted to attend, which included speakers from NASA, the McWane Center, local schools and Betsy Rogers, the 2003 teacher of the year. Here, members of KDPI heard about what a principal looks for in an applicant and what life is like being a teacher.

All in all, it was a very busy year for the members of KDPI who not only gave back

**"We felt like it was important for us to give back to our community and what better way to serve as future teachers, than to celebrate reading."**

to the community around them, but also learned more about their profession. This was the last year for Dean to advise KDPI and next year Becky Atkinson will take over as the new advisor. Several members said they look forward to working with their new advisor and officers to make KDPI better than ever. ♦

# Sharing the International Gift of Music

By Katie Bullock

From May 21 to May 29, 2006, 36 of the 54-member A Cappella Choir sang about their Savior throughout the borders of China. China does not welcome missionaries, but directors Milburn Price and Timothy Banks said singing on an international tour was a wonderful way to share the Gospel.

The China tour arose from the success of two trips to Russia during Spring Break in 2001 and 2004, which led to an invitation from the Chinese Ministry of Culture.

Junior music education major Sarah Spires attended the Russia trip her freshman year and said she has been pleased with past trips with the choir. "A Cappella Choir has provided me with some of the most memorable experiences of my life. Not many people can say they spent Spring Break touring 200-year-old palaces in an arctic climate in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2004," Spires said. "It was an incredible privilege to be able to share the gifts of music and the Gospel with friends across the globe. We had that opportunity again, but this his time in Beijing, China."

Price said the sole purpose of the tour was to sing sacred music as well as songs of their faith while not being overt missionaries. He called it "providential" to be allowed to perform on this tour. For Dean Price this is his "grand finale" as he retired two days following his return to the States.

A Cappella Choir sang at the prestigious Concert Hall in the Forbidden City, the

Concert Hall of the China Traditional Folk Orchestra and one of the Beijing Universities. Their repertoire included Chinese songs in Mandarin as well as others in English, Spanish, German, Latin and Russian. Exploring the culture, they also traveled to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace and Estate among other cultural sites.

While in China, Banks reminisced about a previous trip to China with a Samford Choir. In June 1989 Banks and his wife Wanda were supposed to be on a train to Beijing when the Tiananmen Square Massacre occurred. "As you can imagine, when I conducted a concert of our Samford A Cappella Choir in the Forbidden City Concert Hall near Tiananmen Square, I paid a silent personal homage to a noble people in a tragic time in an exotic place," Banks said.

Reflecting on both of his experiences to China, Banks said, "I think music is able to transcend these tragedies and lift our spirits to a higher place, a place where God wants us to commune with Him. Even though most of our words were not in the language spoken by our hearers, there was a transcendent musical-spiritual language that enriched both the singer and the hearer. That was our mission for going."

Before the honor of singing in China, they were invited to sing at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division on Saturday February 25. This was the first time the A Cappella Choir

had a solo performance at such a concert opportunity. Spires was pleased with the ACDA trip. "Being chosen to perform for ACDA is a highly selective process," she said. "We were honored to present our music to an extremely well-educated audience of choral directors, composers and other musicians."

For the A Cappella Choir members, the practices, tours and concerts express their love and joy for music as well as the Lord. Sophomore Emily Snider said, "Music is a worldwide language. It's the same anywhere and everywhere. Students over there [in China] are learning Bach, Mozart and Beethoven just like America's music students. I believe our tour in China had some mission implications even though China is officially closed to public 'evangelism.'"

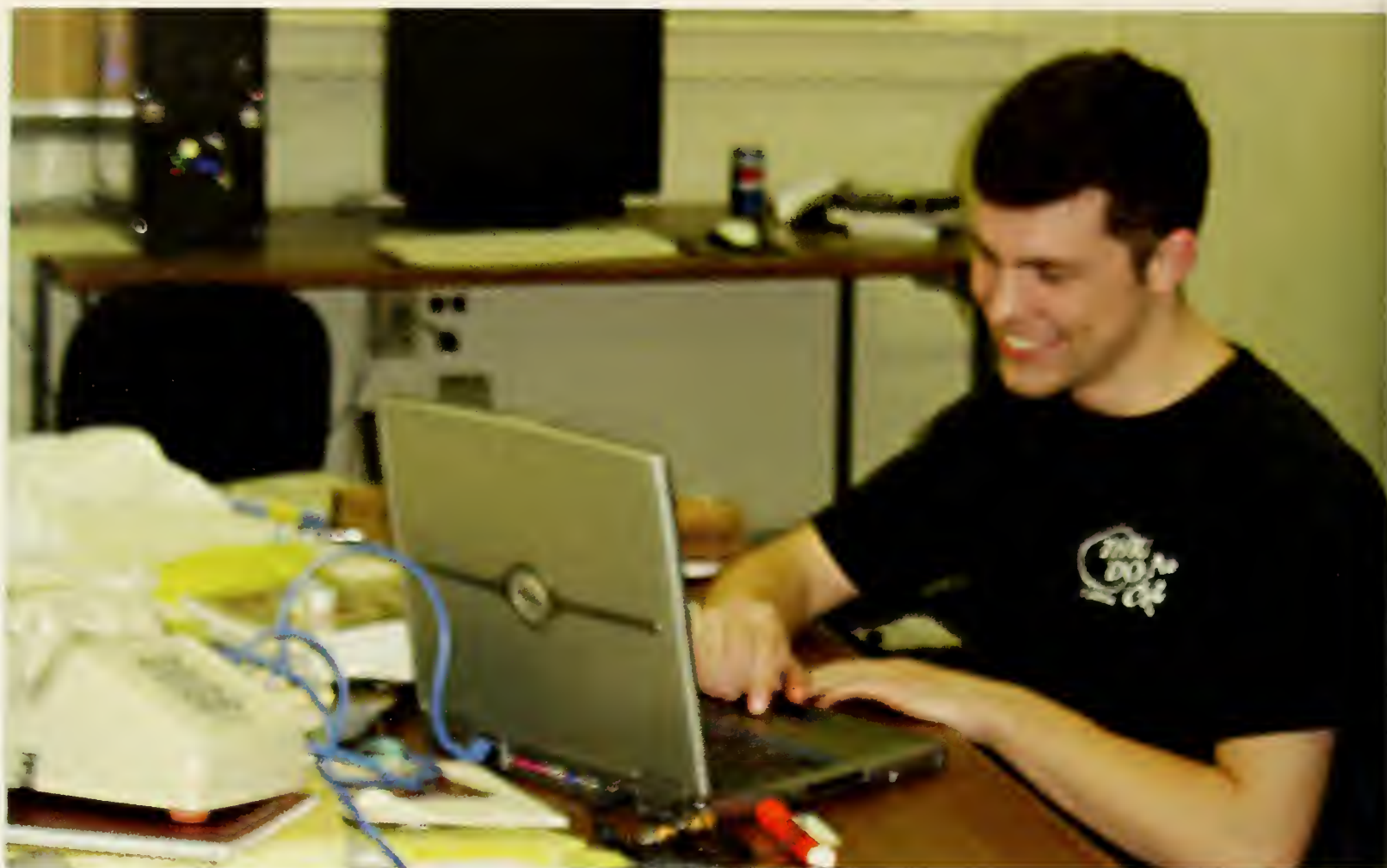
**"Music is a worldwide language. It's the same anywhere and everywhere."**

Spires agreed, "We get to be ambassadors to the world for Samford, Alabama, the United States and, ultimately, our God, all because of music. It truly is the universal language. Blessed be the tie that binds." ♦









# Debating about the Best

by Jessi Lee

Who thought anything at Samford University would ever rank higher than Harvard?

The Samford debate team, headed by communications studies instructor Ben Coulter, placed well in six competitions in the fall semester, and they even placed above Harvard at one competition.

The talent shown by the debate team isn't anything new. Freshman political science major Erin Ramsey said the team was a factor in her choice of university. "I came to a debate camp at Samford my freshman year of high school, and I fell in love with the campus," Ramsey said. "I have a great relationship with the coaches, and they're great coaches."

Sophomore political science major Nick Agnello said he also came to Samford with the intention of joining the debate team. He said he hasn't been disappointed by his teammates. "I like all my team members," he said. "We're pretty solid as far as getting along."

The team placed second overall at the University of Alabama Crimson Classic Debate Tournament.

"We were really excited to do as well as we did," Ramsey said.

Coulter said he liked the way his team performed at this tournament. "That one went very well," he said. "I think we exceeded expectations."

Ramsey and her partner, freshman political science major Chad Macumber, also did well in their most recent tournament, which was held at Wakeforest University. They placed in the top four among the freshman.

Coulter said he is impressed with how well his team has done. "Our whole season has gone pretty darn well," he said. "Right now, we're 15th in varsity standings in the country."

The team competed in the Texas Two-Step and won half of their rounds. They made it to the eliminations but lost in the first round.

Coulter said the team could always do better until they're winning every round, so he initiated a lot of practice and research.

According to Agnello, the team changed things in an effort to improve. "We've done a whole revision and a lot of research," he said.

Ramsey also said the team practiced hard in preparation for the spring competitions. "We did a lot of individual research, and Coulter challenged us over the break to the do 15 minutes of speaking drills every day," Ramsey said. "We're polishing our skills, and I think that will give us the upper hand in our future competitions."

In the spring, the team participated in District, Nationals and Cross Examination Debate Association Nationals, along with other small tournaments.

At Nationals, Galloway was given the honor of serving on the panel for the final round. The team's previous director, professor Michael Janas, resigned from the position this year. "We have a new director this year, Dr. Ryan Galloway," Coulter said. "We're just trying to build on what professor Janas has done for this program."

Agnello said, "We've done pretty well this year, but not as well as last year."

Macumber and Ramsey said they agreed with Agnello. "It was a fantastic season," Ramsey said. ♦





Left: A debate team member reads through his speech on his laptop.

Below: Erin Ramsey prepares for her next debate.



# Organizations

Although only 10 organizations were featured, all the organizations on campus enhance life at Samford. Others include:

## Religious

Family Court  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
Global Christian Women  
Gospel Choir  
Grace Dance Ministry  
Impact Team  
In His Hands  
International Justice Mission  
International Ministry  
Mu Kappa  
SMILE  
Son Reflectors  
Student Ministries  
Target Earth  
The Alliance  
Ville Crew  
Word Players  
Young Life

## Honor

Alpha Epsilon Delta  
Alpha Kappa Delta  
Alpha Lambda Delta  
Alpha Psi Omega  
Association of Honor Students  
Beta Alpha Psi  
Beta Beta Beta  
Beta Gamma Sigma  
Delta Phi Alpha  
Honors Program  
Hypatia  
Omicron Delta Kappa  
Kappa Tau Alpha  
Lamda Pi Eta  
Omicron Delta Kappa  
Phil Alpha Theta  
Phi Kappa Phi  
Pi Delta Phi  
Pi Sigma Alpha  
Psi Chi  
Sigma Delta Pi  
Sigma Tau Delta  
Sigma Theta Tau International  
The Order of Omega

## Social

Black Heritage Association  
College Democrats  
College Republicans  
Psychology Club  
Student Athlete Advisor Committee  
Ultimate Club

## Professional

Alpha Epsilon Rho-National Broadcasters Society  
Alpha Kappa Psi  
American Association of Christian Counselors  
Arnold Air Society  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Christian Women Leadership Center  
Delta Omicron  
Entre Nous  
French Club  
German Club  
Interior Design Student Organizations  
Music Educators National Association  
Nurses Christian Fellowship  
Phi Delta Kappa  
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia  
Phi Mu Epsilon  
Samford Advertising Federation  
Samford Pre-Law Society  
Sociology Club  
Sojourn  
Spanish Club  
Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society  
Student Athletic Trainer's Association  
Students in Free Enterprise  
The Samford Crimson  
Undergraduate Mock Trial Association  
University Chorale

## Service

Alpha Phi Omega  
Amnesty International  
Bread for the World  
Brick  
Habitat for Humanity  
Perry County Advisory Council  
Restoring Eden  
Samford Ambassadors  
Samford Outdoor Adventure Club  
Samford Recruitment Team  
SSNAP













# Begin

**be·gin** (b-gn)

**be·gan, (-gn) be·gun, (-gn) be·gin·ning, be·gins**

v. Graduating opens a new world for Seniors as they close the chapter to this journey

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# A Case of Senioritis

by Kimberly Holland

You won't find it in any medical textbooks, but if you ask college students in the winter of their college career, Senioritis is a bona fide disease. For most students, the treatment can't come soon enough.

Those who say they have a chronic case of Senioritis find themselves without the energy or motivation to do anything they should be doing. Instead, most mustered energy goes to hanging out with friends, watching movies or wasting time on the computer.

"Senioritis is a lack of desire to do work. It's not a lack of motivation. It's greater than motivation. I have no concept of work," senior exercise science major Becca Sanders said.

Sanders said she doesn't redirect her energy when she's battling a bout of the faux disease. Instead, she does absolutely nothing.

"I've stayed up until two in the morning for no reason, doing nothing," she said.

Katherine Manget, a senior exercise science major and Sanders' friend, said Senioritis shouldn't be thought of as a disease, rather a pleasure.

"[Becca] loves every minute of it," Manget said. "But for me, it's like the thermostat for work in my head goes off."

Senior vocal performance major Drew Pournelle said he thinks his problems are caused by a lighter workload. Whatever the cause, his tendency to not start papers until the night before they are to be turned in and to sit at the computer for hours doing something completely unrelated to his tasks are all symptoms of Pournelle's Senioritis.

"I'm used to having 18 hours per semester, so I'm not sure if it's Senioritis or just not having as much work," he said. "[Senioritis] has never been this bad for me, but I've never been an overachiever anyway."

Pournelle will be going to New York City following graduation to attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, but he said he doesn't fear his lack of desire affecting his performances.

"My performances haven't been affected, and I think I'll be able to pick up my pace because [AMDA] is just a different experience altogether," he said.

Sanders said she also doesn't think adjusting to her life after getting her undergrad diploma will be difficult. She will be attending the University of Southern California to obtain her Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

"My major is so focused on getting into a grad school, so I was focused on that. When I got in, I was like, 'Thank goodness,' and then I didn't want to work anymore," Sanders said, adding she never bought the book for one of her classes.

Senior nursing major Emily Dalrymple said she believes Senioritis is at its worst when she's around others, especially her roommate.

"We both have those days when we feel like doing nothing productive, and I'll make her go to Target with me, just to get out and do something," she said. "Sometimes she decides we should go out to eat because we can always just do our studying later."

Dalrymple also faces the hurdle of planning a wedding and battling Senioritis.

"I'd much rather be planning stuff for the wedding or picking out furniture and registry stuff than doing anything school related," she said.

Sanders said what most seniors agree to when it comes to their desire to no longer be a student.

**"Senioritis is a lack of desire to do work. It's not a lack of motivation. It's greater than motivation. I have no concept of work."**

"I wouldn't define Senioritis as getting out of Samford because I don't want to leave here. I've already been accepted to the number one PT grad school in the nation, so these grades don't matter," she said. "I want to focus on relationships. I don't want school to be my focus anymore."

No matter what the symptoms are, Senioritis will inevitably infect many Samford seniors every year. The side effects will be as varied as the seniors who are suffering, but rest assured, most of them will enjoy their disease. ♦





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JANUARY





# The Seniors' Major Test

by Megan Voelkel

Vocal performance major Julia McNeese didn't have too many butterflies when she took the stage for her senior voice recital February 7. She had spent almost a year preparing for this moment in the spotlight, a final landmark in her college career.

"The recital brings to life the word 'performance' in the major," said McNeese, who performed a wide range of pieces, from the Baroque era to modern-day Broadway. "It's a time you have outside of ensembles to showcase what you've been working on. You put your whole heart and soul into it, because you don't know when you may be able to perform such works again," she said.

Attended by family, friends and the public, senior voice recitals serve to equip music majors with professional performance experience and preparation. Students are responsible for compiling their repertoire, writing the program notes and rehearsing with professors. It's a requirement they must fulfill before they can receive a diploma.

"It's the culmination of your college career and your studies," McNeese said. "It was also the most fun that I've had performing in a long time."

For students of other disciplines, a different sort of composition serves as the zenith of scholastic instruction. Pages and pages of original research and analysis are organized into theses that probe topics associated with students' majors.

Adam Dauro, a senior political science major, explored the relationship between constitutional theory and Thomas Hobbes's ideas in his thesis, "The Necessity of Unity: Hobbes and the Federalist on Dual and Divided Sovereignty." Inspired by several of his political science classes, it was a project that he began writing in the fall and ended with a presentation at the Student Showcase May 5.

This year's Student Showcase, an annual campus forum for undergraduate scholarship and research, featured presentations from 127 graduating seniors on a variety of topics.

History professor Marjorie Walker, one of the program's facilitators, said the opportunity to put forth original research is valuable, especially for students who plan to go on to professional schools. "It's a good way to get feedback from your peers and

from other disciplines as well. It's always nice to get constructive criticism from those outside your field."

As an honors student, Dauro was required to defend his thesis before a committee of political science professors in a question-and-answer session.

"I was prepared for it [Student Showcase], because these are the ideas I've been discussing for the majority of my college career," Dauro said. "It was stressful because I was in front of extremely intelligent professors. This is their subject, and I was putting forth an idea that was pretty radical." Dauro's thesis argued that the U.S. Constitution was flawed according to Hobbesian political theory, since the founders disagreed with the political theorist's support of a monarchy.

As for fielding questions, Dauro got more experience than expected, filling the entire politics and government honors session alone. "I ended up presenting for 20 minutes and having 15 minutes of questions, instead of a 15-minute presentation and 5 minutes of questions. It was harrowing." Despite the challenge, Dauro said the public speaking opportunity was good preparation for the trials he will face in law school this fall.

"Writing a thesis, extending the thesis...I had never done anything of this magnitude," Dauro said. "If you're in a major like mine, out in the area of theory all the time, it's an opportunity to look at specifics. This one thing is, in a sense, a representation of all that I've learned." ♦





Opposite page- Three seniors present their thesis and prepare for the panel's questions.

Far left: The graphic design senior review committee analyzes senior design projects.

Left: Becca Sanders explaining anterior knee pain in college women distance runners and its relationship to their quadriceps angle.

Below - Laura Ratzlaff speaks about her experience directing *The Last Five Years*.







Adams, Catherine  
Art



Adams, Jed  
Art



Adlay, Bonnie  
Music Education



Adkins, Christy  
Biology



Aldridge, Lindsey  
Interior Design



Allen, Paul  
Management



Allen, Traci  
EC/E/SE/CT



Allino, Matthew  
Communication Studies



Anderson, Joshua  
Management



Ariason, Amanda  
Nursing



Ascani, Alison  
Nursing



Atkinson, Tyler  
Sociology



Avison, Douglas  
Sociology



Bailey, Sarah  
Biology



Baker, Jennifer  
EC/E/SE/CT



Baker, Lauren  
Psychology





Banks, Rachel  
Graphic Design



Barnes, Nickolas  
Music



Basinger, Amy  
Nursing



Batchelor, Wendy  
Biology



Bateman, Adam  
Management



Baughman, Constance  
Psychology



Bayazid, Zeina  
Graphic Design



Behlmann, Courtney  
Chemistry



Bell, Sarah  
Language and Literature



Bender, Tyler  
JMC



Benjamin, Marissa  
EC/E/SE/C



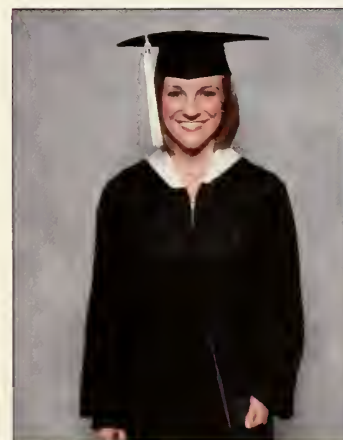
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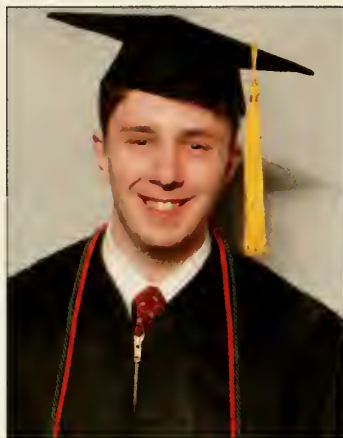


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History





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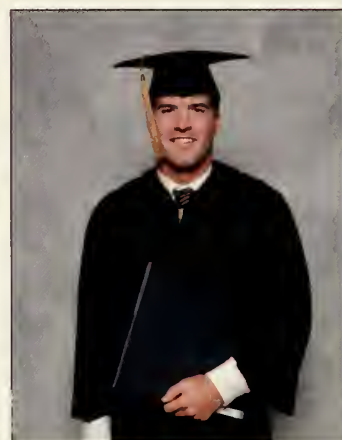
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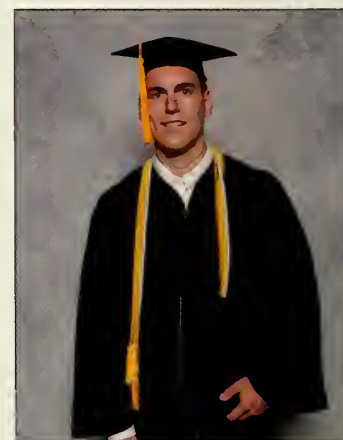
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Communication Studies



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Bourgeois, Austin  
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Bowen, Brittney  
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Music Education



Bradbury, Jennifer  
Biology



Brandenburg, Edward  
Music Education



Brannan, Jeremy  
Biology



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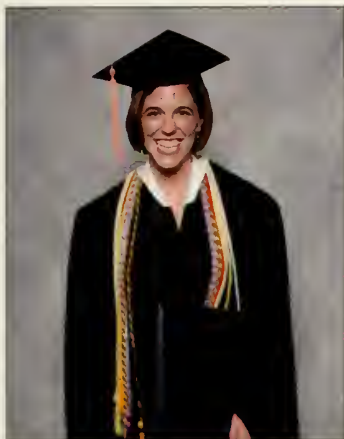
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Psychology



Broome, Danielle  
Management



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Brown, Stephen  
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Bryant, Stephanie  
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Buchanan, Holly  
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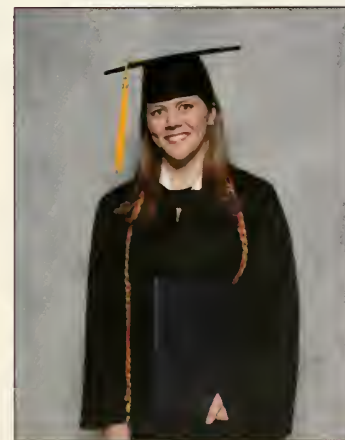
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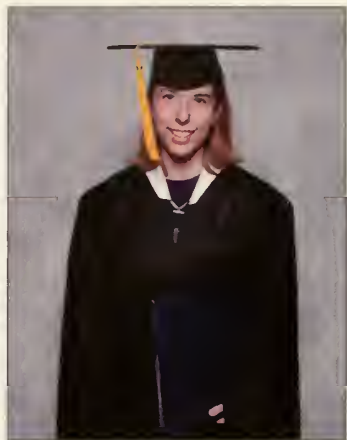


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Buckles, Kendra  
English





Bullock, Katie  
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Butler, Jill  
Nursing



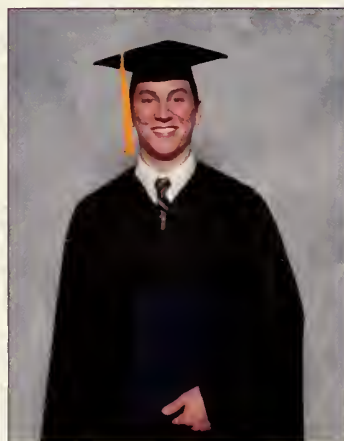
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Psychology



Caldwell, Mary  
Interior Design



Camacho, Colin  
Psychology



Campbell, Chelsea  
Family Studies



Cantley, Mary Melissa  
Psychology



Cardina, Rachel  
Graphic Design



Carter, Sarah  
EC E



Castle, Dwight  
International Relations



Catlett, Caroline  
JMC





Cawood, Kathryn Paige  
Interior Design



Cesler, Elizabeth  
International Relations



Chang, Yu  
Graphic Design



Charis, Adam  
Journalism and Mass Communication



Chick, Michael Robert  
International Relations



Ciervo, Jordan  
Management



Clardy, Casey  
Psychology



Clark, Lindsey  
Nursing



Clark, Natalie  
Nursing



Cleveland, Katherine  
Nursing



Coco, Rachel  
JMC



Colbert, Jessica  
Accounting



Coley, David  
Theatre



Colson, Andrea  
E.C.E. S.E.C.



Colwell, Lauren  
Management



Cook, Brian  
Management





# senior survey

**If you could change Samford's current motto (For God, For learning, Forever) to reflect your personal experience, what would it be?**

- Four years, Four loans, Forget it!
- Hang on for the ride.
- For sweat, For restrictions, For image.
- For God, For convo, For parking tickets.
- Love, honor, truth.
- For God, For Friends, For Parents who paid for me to be here.
- For times on the quad, For late nights of work, Forever.
- For caf cookies, For convo, For the quad.
- Popping collars since 1841.
- For dancing, For singing, For STEP SING, Forever.

**What's the worst trend you have seen come through Samford?**

- The ugg boots...those are the ugliest things I have ever seen. Only if you live in Alaska would you actually need a pair of those, and even then the sled dogs would probably laugh at you.
- Short skirts with big boots
- Croakies
- Silk skirts and stiletto heels to class...I mean, really?
- Brightly colored rain galoshes
- Facebook
- Those flat glittering shoes
- Velvety jump suits and popped collars



**What is the one thing about your college years that you did/saw that you would rather die than tell your parents?**

- I couldn't tell them half of what I've spent my time doing.
- Staying out all night on the quad with a guy I'd dated for a week.
- If I answer that I will get a values violation.
- I took a test once that I didn't know was going to happen until the professor said "put up your books and get your pencils out."
- If I told you, I'd have to kill you.
- I can't think of anything. Maybe I really am a "good little Southern girl."
- I snuck someone in after visitation hours were over.
- The values council already did...
- I'm actually on scholarship (they think they've been paying Samford...).
- Ha ha, wouldn't you like to know.
- Changing drivers while going 70mph down I-65 in a stick shift.

**What was the funniest experience you've had in class?**

- Blake Jones falling asleep in class and falling out of his chair.
- Exercise Physiology with Buddy.
- When my teacher had a running joke about bringing "special brownies."
- Trying to pry open the windows with a crowbar in Burns.
- Wearing trash bags to give a presentation on the statistics of trash along with some pretty great pictures in our Powerpoint presentation.
- Listening to a Broadway musical about Japan and singing along.
- Dr. Barnette once started talking about Levar Burton, and then he started to sing "You can read! With your dad! Reading Rainbow!"
- Kurtis Donnelly and David Coley acting out "The Tempest" in Dr. Clapp's CP 101 class.
- My teacher saying "turn off your vibrator" when a cell phone was ringing.
- When my professor told me I had the IQ of a window and that I act like a Tasmanian devil when I'm stressed out.
- Theatre classes never cease to be entertaining.

**What do you think will run through your mind when you cross the stage at graduation?**

- Don't trip...DON'T TRIP!
- Don't trip, Don't trip, Are my family members going to break the rule and yell?
- Has it really been four years and do I really have a degree?
- Hallelujah!
- Am I really this old?? ... I am getting a college degree. After I grab this diploma I am a REAL woman and I am no longer a student.... adult, independent...wait, do I pay my own bills?
- I hope they spelled my name right on this thing.
- This is the closest I ever got to Dr. Corts.
- I'll be here four more years for pharmacy school...By the time I'm done I will have paid for the new athletic facility!
- He he he...I don't have any clothes on under this gown.
- This is the most expensive piece of paper I've ever been awarded.





Cook, Elisabeth  
Psychology



Cook, Sarah  
Communication Studies



Cooley, Jonathan  
Management



Cornutt, Catherine  
Accounting



Corven, Kerry  
Family Studies



Cotner, Joe  
Psychology



Cowart, Charissa  
JMC



Crandall, Patrick  
Political Science



Crim, Meredith  
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Crow, Christal  
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Crumley, Eric  
Psychology



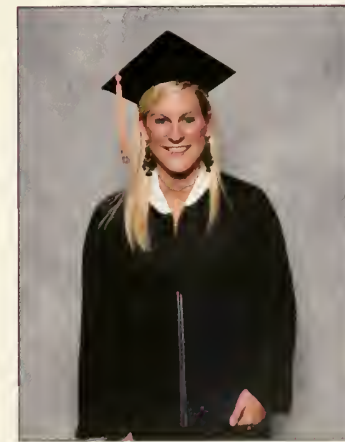
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History



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Nursing





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Dauro, Adam  
Political Science



Davidson, Thomas Blake  
Accounting



Davis, Joel  
Accounting



Decarlo, Lauren  
Religion



Dellinger, Matthew  
Management



Demetros, Elizabeth  
Fitness and Health Promotion



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Classics



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Instrumental Music



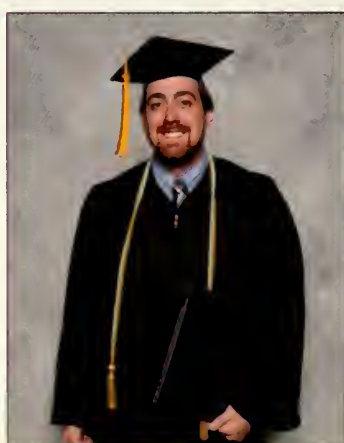
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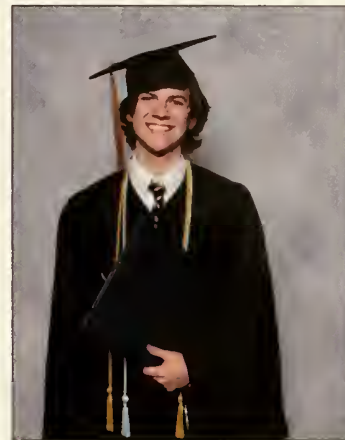
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Languages and World Trade



Douglas, Geoffrey  
Theatre



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Sociology



Edmondson, Melissa  
Nursing



Edmunds, Chris  
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Psychology



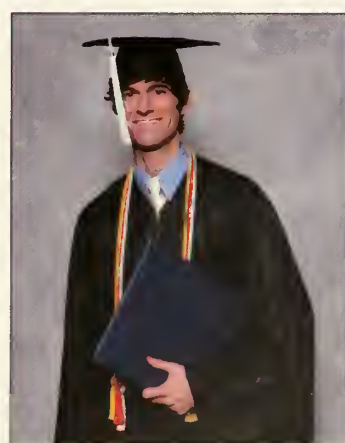
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JMC



Foltz, Brandon  
Sports Medicine





Fowler, Scott  
Fitness and Health Promotion



Fox, Peter  
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Freedman, Haley  
EC/E/SE/C



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Gärther, Naomi  
EC/E/SE/C



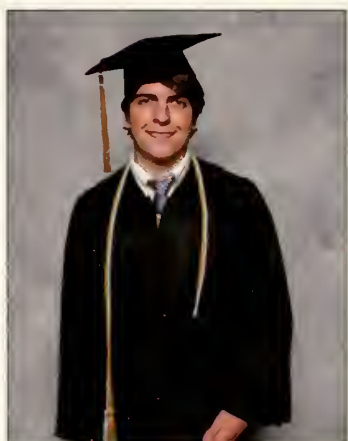
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Management



Garrison, Mary  
English



Gay, Eric  
Theatre



Geoghegan, Catherine  
History



George, Erika  
Psychology



Gerberich, Kiersten  
Exercise Science



Gillespie, Meghan  
Languages and World Trade



Gillespie, MORGAN  
Interior Design



Gilliland, Jonathon  
Religion



Golden, Matthew  
Sports Medicine





Goolsby, Susan  
Liberal Studies



Goresh, Madeleine Amadea  
International Relations



Graves, Joseph  
Accounting



Green, Megan  
Psychology



Green, Tara  
EC/E



Grier, Carrie  
Nursing



Griffie, John  
Political Science



Griffith, Meagan  
Management



Grubbs, Hartley  
Biology



Gudzan, Richard  
Management



Guyton, Brandon  
Management



Haas, Abigail  
Sociology



Hacker, Molly  
Family Studies



Hamburg, Laura  
EC, E



Hammond, Molly  
Interior Design



Hammonds, Jessica  
History





Harbor, Alissa  
Interior Design



Hare, Lucy  
Athletic Training



Harper, Erin  
Art



Harper, John  
Church Music



Harris, Justin  
Psychology



Harris, Laura  
Biology



Harris, Lindsey  
Nursing



Harris, Sally  
Biology



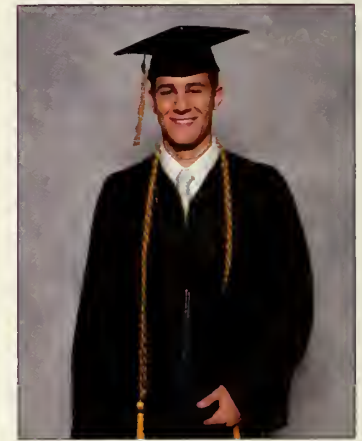
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Management



Harrison, John  
Religion



Harrison, Matthew  
Political Science



Harter, Zachary  
Accounting



Harvey, Amy  
Biology



Hawthorne, Sommer  
Political Science



Haves, David  
Political Science



Haymond, Sarah  
Sociology





# senior survey

## What has been your most memorable experience with campus safety?

- I, with some fellow group members, were kicked out of the library because one of our group members mouthed off to an employee. Campus Safety came in to remove us from the building, and I'll never forget one of them reaching up to their radio and calling for "BACKUP...and a CAR UNIT!" like we were about to start a riot and throw tables and chairs! (No worries, I was cleared of all charges a few weeks later).
- Bringing Krystal to the guy at the gate whenever my roommate and I made late night food runs.
- Who, oh...the people in uniforms...wait, what do they do again?
- When I was in a car that got pulled over by them for running a stop sign at like 2 in the morning
- Watching one of them attempt to jump off my car, unsuccessfully.
- Being put on hold during an emergency.
- Well, I just heard about it, but when they hid in the bushes by Vail and chased down the streaker while wearing the uniform with all the branches and leaves and stuff hanging off of it.
- Calling them when the Chi O owl was outside of our dorm, and we had no idea what it was. We were trying not to laugh while telling them there was an owl outside of our dorm.
- I got locked out of the music building dressed as Mozart...and they let me back in...
- Hitching a ride at 1 a.m. to west campus. However, we had to pile four people in the backseat of their little truck.
- Junior year...we had just finished Step Sing stuff so it was late, and I was taking out the trash. I was wearing a Samford baseball hat, and my Step Sing t-shirt. Campus Safety drove past, waved, put on their brakes, backed up, stopped me and asked to see my Samford ID. They wanted to make sure I was a student!
- The day they tried to give me a speeding ticket...they have no radar.
- Getting fingerprinted.
- Showing my Visa credit card to get onto campus after hours.

## Where's the best place to take a date?

- Brio
- The Boulder Fields
- I wouldn't know
- Any place with view of the city
- Next to the big dumpster between Smith and Vail
- The symphony or a play
- Anywhere, as long as she's with me, I'm happy.
- The top of Reid Chapel
- Behind the Step Sing banners in the caf
- Buffalo Wild Wings after a Barons Baseball game
- Botanical Gardens when the Symphony is playing

## What's your favorite restaurant in Birmingham?

- Nabeel's
- Cheesecake Factory
- Petrucelli's Italian restaurant
- Los Compadres...me gusta!
- The Tip-Top Grill
- Panera
- Crepes Egg-Cetera...until it closed

## How many convos did you save until your senior year?

- 40
- About 20
- Zero- I got all 64 my freshman year.
- None! Gotta love being a nursing major.
- Actually less than 10
- ONE- had to hit up the first University Convo
- None, I had no life as a freshman.
- 16- just like I was supposed to

(continued on page 219)



Hazelwood, Sarah  
Nursing



Heap, Dawn  
Psychology



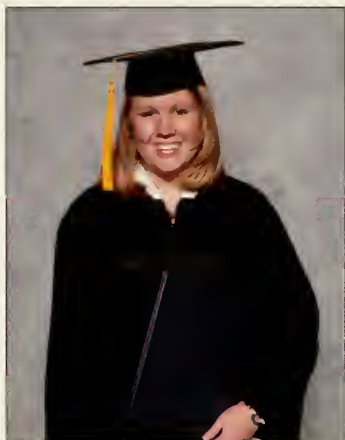
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Piano



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History



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Nutrition and Dietetics



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JMC



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English



Herrington, Robert  
Management



Hildebrand, Kate  
International Relations



Hill, Ashley  
Nursing



Hill, Katherine  
EC/E/SE/C



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EC/E/SE/C



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Musical Theatre



Holder, Jennifer  
Art

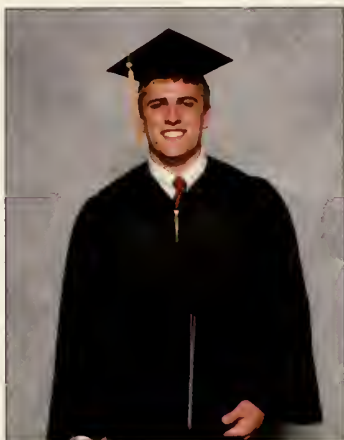


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History





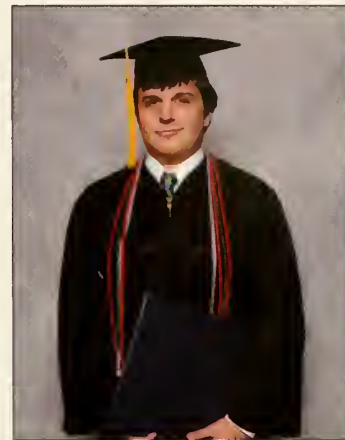
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Spanish



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ES - GIS



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Howard, Charles  
Liberal Studies



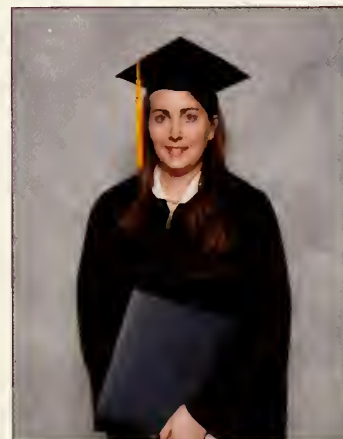
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Family Studies



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Interior Design



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Biology



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Nursing



Huddleston, John  
Theatre



Hull, Katie  
Spanish

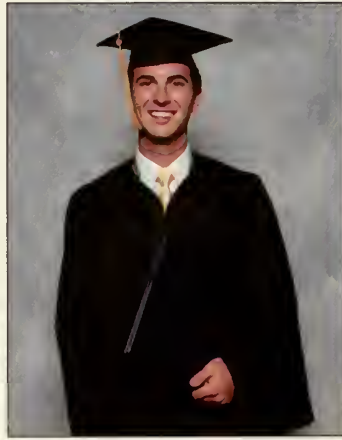


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Biochemistry





Humphries, Laura  
Nursing



Huskey, Marcus  
Management



Hyde, Ashley  
Family Studies



Iliff, MEgan  
EC/E/SE/C



Jackson, Carly  
Psychology



Jacobs, Joshua  
Communication Studies



Jemison, George  
Psychology



Jewett, Felicia  
Liberal Studies



Johnson, Daniel  
Biology



Johnson, Heather  
Family Studies



Johnson, Teon  
Family Studies



Johnson, William Vincent  
JMC



Jones, Earline  
Liberal Studies



Jones, Jennifer  
Religion



Jones, Jessica  
English



Jones, Melissa  
EC/E/SE/C





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Jordan, Julie  
English



Jordan, Melissa  
JMC



Jordan, Stephanie  
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Judge, Talia  
Sports Medicine



Justice, Craig  
Management



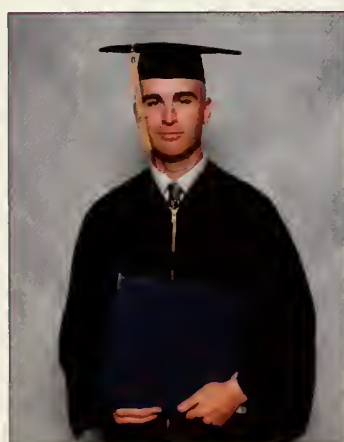
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Keen, Courtney  
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Kelley, William  
Accounting



Kendrick, Michael  
Languages and World Trade



Kendrick, Sarah  
Accounting



Kennedy, Katherine  
Nursing



Kerkhof, Lacy  
Family Studies



Kiel, Ellen  
Interior Design



King, James  
English





King, Tiffany  
Biology



Knapp, Sarah  
Voice



Knierim, Matthew  
Psychology



Knight, Ami  
EC/ E/SE C



Knight, Ann  
Nursing



Kruse, Sallie  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Lancaster, Megan  
EC/ E/SE C



Landis, Bethany  
Athletic Training



Lanehart, Lauren  
Psychology



Lang, Angela  
Nursing



Lang, Chesley  
Nursing



Larson, Carrie  
Piano



Lehman, Margaret  
Biology



Lettieri, Ruth  
Management



Lewis, Emilee  
Biology

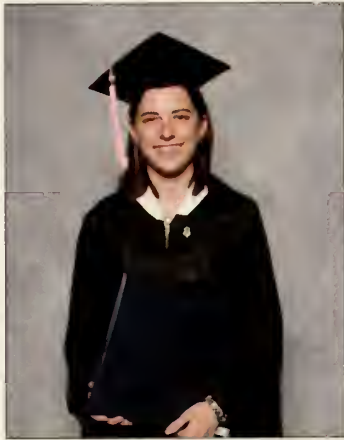


Lowery, Rachel  
Mathematics





Lucas, John  
Sports Medicine



Lynch, Laura  
Instrumental Music



Maddox, Alexandra  
Voice



Malin, Danielle  
Biology



Mallanik, Sarah  
Biology



Malnati, Laura  
Exercise Science



Manning, Matthew  
Accounting



Marsh, Cheryl  
Music Education



Martin, Ashley  
Communication Studies



Martin, Catherine  
Interior Design



Martinez, Victoria  
Family Studies



Mason, Eddie  
Computer Science



Massey, Whitney  
Management



Mauer, Nathan  
History



Mayberry, Ryan  
Languages and World Trade



Mcalister, Kim  
Nursing



# senior survey

## What's the biggest prank you've pulled during the past four years?

- Looking for the derby hat on the roof of the Sciencenter during Sigma Chi's Derby Days 2005.
- We chalked the entire campus saying "Happy Birthday Jill" one day freshman year. The funny thing was, it wasn't Jill's birthday, and her class sang to her.
- The great prank of Pittman during 2001-2002. Pittman 209...nuff said.
- It wasn't actually me, but a friend of mine pulled her car up from the Sciencenter past the library, up to the fountain and then turned on her car radio while we swam in the fountain.
- Stealing a crawfish from the caf and putting it in my suitemate's sink.
- I filled Chris Smith's toothpaste with EZ Cheese.
- Throwing a rubber ball off the balcony of the Wright Center during a Step Sing Tech Rehearsal. It bounced off the floor, shot way up into the air and landed in the middle of the poor group who happened to be practicing on stage. It was pretty funny, but the group's directors were kinda mad.
- Watching a friend try to eat a trick oreo pie made out of mashed potatoes. Then next week he went for the trick pumpkin pie with salad dressing in it.
- My suitemates and I always had Silly String fights. We'd attack each other at the most random moments. Even in the caf!
- I Saran wrapped my brother's car and put hotdogs all over it and stuck a banner on it that said the "Weiner Mobile."
- Taking bras and panties from the laundry room freshman year in Vail.
- I've jumped in the fountain, but who hasn't?

## What was your oddest Caf moment?

- The bucking bronco...that weirded me out.
- Whenever they had the string quartet during family weekend.
- Karaoke
- Not really a single moment but a collection of moments...when you stand in line forever for those stupid chicken fingers that don't even taste good every Monday night.
- Going at five p.m. on the dot every night with our entire freshman hall.
- The guy in front of me put an entire pizza on his plate and walked off. I mean, thanks for being considerate!
- A friend and I used to bring a blanket in the caf on Thursdays and have indoor picnics because there was nowhere to eat outdoors on sunny days.

## What is something about Samford that an outsider would never understand?

- The dilemma over whether the shoe goes in the suite door or the room door.
- The unspoken rules about where to (or not to) sit in the caf as well as the fact that most girls are good girls looking for a future husband.
- The 90% rule. EVERYTHING at Samford is only 90% accurate. Administration, student government, classes, anything to do with your academic record, only 90%.
- Step Sing
- Step Sing...how even guys can enjoy dancing, singing and making freaking formations to a medley of songs sometime even baffles me, but yet we all love it.
- What DTR stands for.
- The "Samford Bubble." You have to be a part of it to understand.
- Leaving the football games at halftime.
- That North Face, Louis Vuitton and a Nalgene combine to make the perfect ladies outfit.
- The inexplicable joy of a sunny afternoon on the quad.
- The shortened names for everything.

## What is your advice as a graduating senior for underclassmen?

- Take time to spend with people here...they're all amazing, and you'll regret losing great memories with friends thanks to a textbook.
- Keep going, don't stop, even when you can't go on, go.
- Love every minute of it, even when you hate it.
- Go to Swing Kids!
- Get out now before you get hit with the 9% tuition increase. But if you stay, become a psychology major!
- Study abroad for a semester, it's the best thing in the world that can happen to you.
- Recognize the gift you've been given in your opportunity to get a college education. School gets old but minimum wage gets old quicker.
- Save all your pass/fail classes till last semester senior year. You'll thank me if you do.
- Always seek to know and experience more about life, such as going through the Taco Bell drive-thru four times in a row to see if it's possible to be kicked out of a drive thru.
- Play intramurals







McAuley, Ella Lorraine  
Psychology



McCabe, Jaclyn  
Nursing



McCafferty, Tara  
Communication Studies



McCary, Amanda  
Nursing



McCreary, Sarah  
EC/ E/ SE/ C



McCullough, Ali  
EC/ E/ SF/ C



McElroy, Elizabeth  
Nutrition and Dietetics



McElroy, John Andrew  
Religion



McEntire, Chelsey  
Interior Design



McGavock, Cheryl  
EC/ E/ SE/ C



McGee, Kristen  
Interior Design



McGee, Rachel  
Family Studies



McGuire, Kara  
Nursing



McKee, Kristen  
Languages and World Trade



McLendon, Natalie  
Nursing

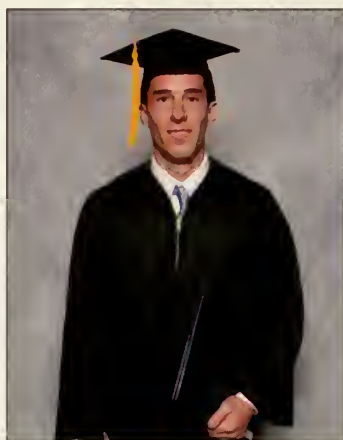


McNeese, Julia  
Music





Meadows, Ashley  
EC/E



Medlin, Camden  
Biochemistry



Melton, Gabriela  
Communication Studies



Merritt, James  
Management



Miller, Jordan  
Nursing



Miller, Stephanie  
Religion



Milner, Sarah  
Psychology



Moll, Matthew  
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Montgomery, Mark  
Philosophy



Moody, James  
Accounting



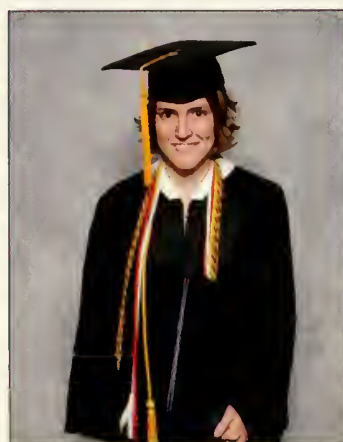
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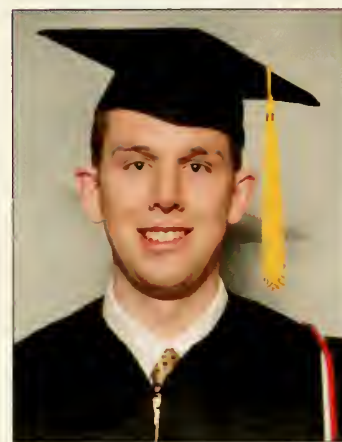
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Theatre



Moore, Laurie  
Nursing



Moore, Lisa  
Classics



Moore, Nathan  
Communication Studies



Morgan, Melissa  
JMC





Morris, Emily  
Sports Medicine



Morris, Mackenzie  
Communication Studies



Morris, Merry  
International Relations



Moses, Melanie  
Nursing



Mosley, Jeremiah  
Philosophy



Moss, Lydia  
EC/E/SE/C



Motta, Michael  
Religion



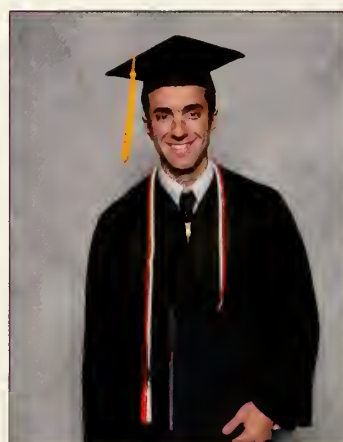
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Management



Murdock, Janna  
Nursing



Murphy, James  
Journalism and Mass Communication



Mykitta, Alan  
Communication Studies



Nail, Kara  
Instrumental Music



Nash, Lauren  
Biology



Nealey, Coustance  
Theological Studies



Newby, Mary Anna  
Psychology



Nixon, Melissa  
JMC





Nuckolls, Sherry  
Accounting



Nung, Suan  
Church Music



Nutter, Amanda  
Nutrition and Dietetics



Offord, Ashley  
Psychology



Ogorek, John  
Psychology



Orton, Mary  
Psychology



Owens, Ian  
Management



Panella, Ashley  
EC/E



Parman, Kortney  
Nutrition and Dietetics



Parsons, Kyle  
JMC



Perkins, Kelli  
Music Education



Perkins, Ryan  
History



Perry, Donald Blake  
Biochemistry



Perry, Wanda  
Elementary Education



Peters, Lisa  
Accounting



Philhours, Erica  
EC/E, SE/C





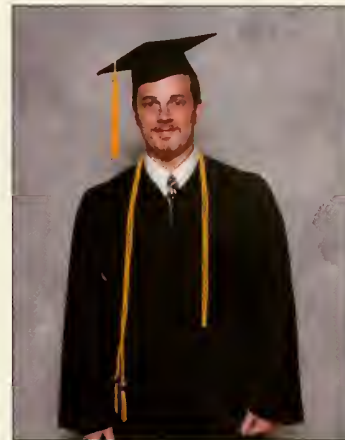
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Spanish



Polinski, Amanda  
JMC



Pournelle, John  
Voice



Powell, Adam  
Psychology



Powell, Kristen  
Management



Powell, Mary Emily  
Nursing



Powell, Sarah Grayson  
Art



Powers, Jean  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Pritchett, Carolyn  
Psychology



Proffitt, Joey  
Communication Studies



Provine, Allison  
Sports Medicine



Prudhomme, Amy  
Biology



Pughsley, Kevin  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Pumphrey, Lucy  
Art



Ratchford, Brooke  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Ratzlaff, Laura  
Theatre





Redus, Andrea  
JMC



Reed, John Adam  
Interior Design



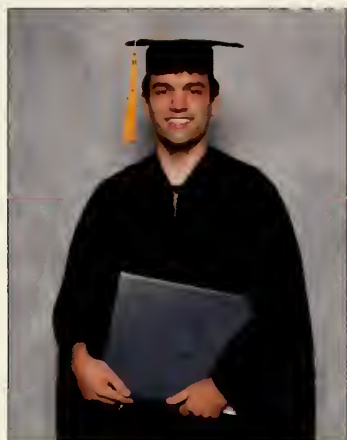
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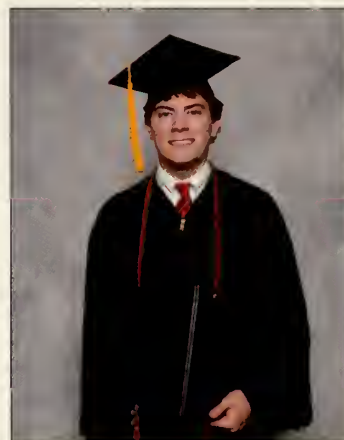
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Geography



Reeves, Timothy  
Political Science



Reid, Christopher  
Political Science



Reynolds, Charles  
Biology



Richerson, Rebecca  
German



Riddle, Perry  
Music



Rivers, Angela  
Nursing



Roark, Martha Michelle  
Biochemistry



Rogers, Jamie  
English



Ross, Taylor  
EC/E/SF/C



Rousseau, Erica  
Biology



Rowe, Emily  
Family Studies



Rozen, Jennifer  
Family Studies





# senior survey

## What is the most important characteristic of a good roommate?

- He takes out the trash.
- He/she is not a drug dealer.
- Someone you can talk to.
- Flexibility and/or being able to sleep through me hitting the snooze six times every day.
- Patience, listener
- That it's not a female.
- Consideration
- Fun to do nothing with
- Ultimate flexibility

## What is the best advice you've received while attending Samford?

- Keep chasing your dream.
- Give it your all, but don't take it too seriously.
- Let your LIFESONG sing.
- Dump your high school boyfriend.
- Be yourself.

## What was your favorite class and/or professor at Samford?

- Ken Brazil, what's cooler than a professor who rides a motorcycle to class.
- Interpersonal Communication with Dr. Parker or Fiction and Film with Metress.
- Dr. (Honda) Parker was by far my favorite professor.
- Dr. Holloway
- Christian Ethics
- Dr. Jones
- Dr. Bill Service
- Candy Todd...who cannot love Candy and her red shoes!
- Ethics with Dr. C
- Ceramics with Dr. Vann
- Dr. Sansom

## Whom do you wish you had gotten to know better in the past four years?

- The ladies who swipe the cards in the caf
- Some of my guy friends
- My secret crush
- The librarians

## What song best describes your freshman year?

- Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
- Nothing But a Good Time
- Gotta Get Thru This
- Change in Attitudes, Change in Lattitudes
- Wild Thing
- Sky Falls Down
- A Whole New World
- Good Little Girls
- Sunny Days

## What song best describes your senior year?

- All my Rowdy Friends Have Settled Down
- If I Could Do It Again
- Fire and Rain
- I Didn't Sleep At All Last Night
- Feels Like Today
- Dare You to Move
- I'm a Survivor
- Love is a Battlefield
- LIFESONG
- Unanswered Prayers



Rumph, Jason  
Computer Science



Rushing, Bethany  
Communication Studies



Russell, Amanda  
Nursing



Rymer, Margaret  
Nursing



Samchok, David  
Church Music



Sanders, Lauren  
Nursing



Sanders, Rebecca  
Exercise Science



Satterfield, Jennifer  
Nursing



Sauerman, Richard  
Management



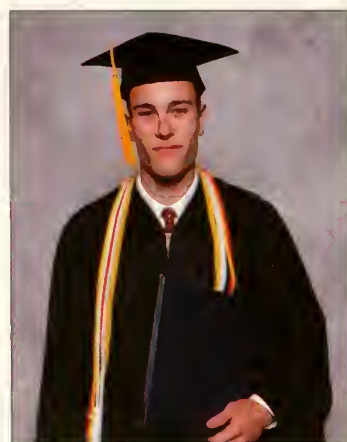
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Art



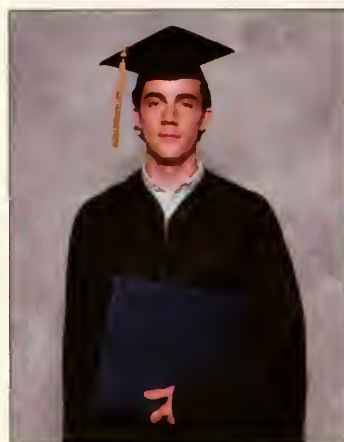
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Family Studies



Schlereth, Adrienne  
Psychology



Scott, Pryknak  
History



Scott, Robert  
Management



Scott, Stacy  
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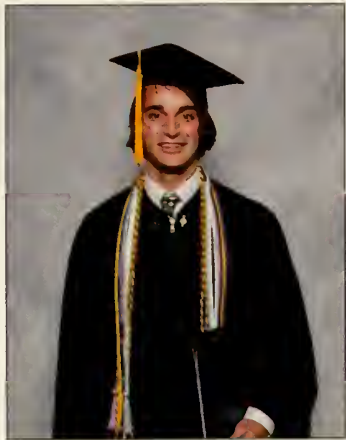


Scroggins, Devon  
Management





Seals, Penny  
Psychology



Sharon, Christopher  
Mathematics



Sharpe, ashley  
History



Sharpe, Rebecca  
Family Studies



Shelmutt, Amanda  
Spanish



Shepherd, Lauren  
Athletic Training



Shirley, James  
Biology



Shoemaker, Mari Beth  
Theological Studies



Shores, Rebecca  
Management



Sides, Payton  
Management



Simmons, Elizabeth  
Accounting



Simmons, Jacob  
Management



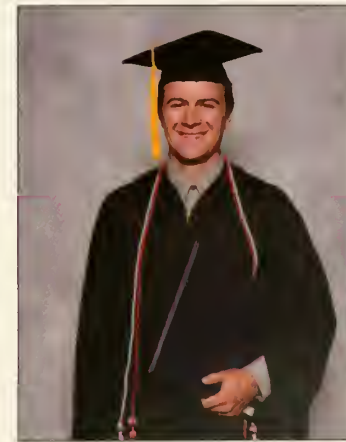
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Family Studies



Simpson, Kelli  
EC/E/SE/C



Skinner, Abigail  
Management



Skinner, James  
History





Smith, Britney  
Family Studies



Smith, Cheryl  
Psychology



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Theatre



Smith, Jenna  
Psychology



Smith, Leigh Ellen  
Nursing



Smith, Melissa  
Management



Smith, Scott  
Communication Studies



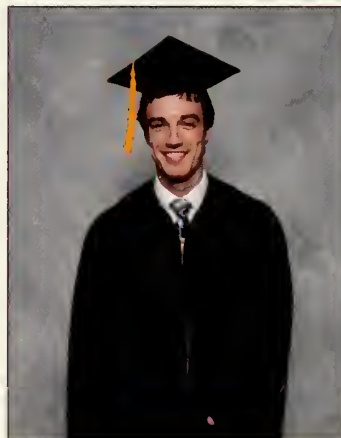
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Theological Studies



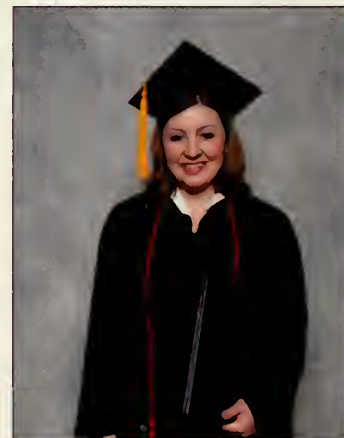
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History



Soop, Katherine  
Graphic Design



Sowards, Jordan  
JMC



Spain, Andrea  
Biology



Sparks, Christine  
Fitness and Health Promotion



Springall, Dana  
Management



Spurlock, Amy  
Language Arts



Stanley, Brandon  
Biology





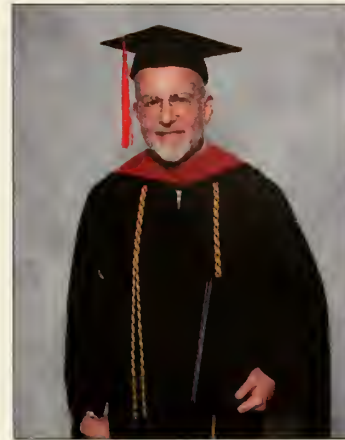
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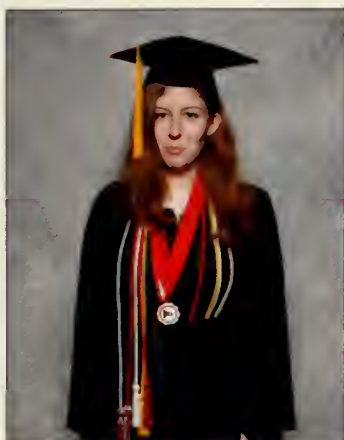
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Stevenson, Jordan  
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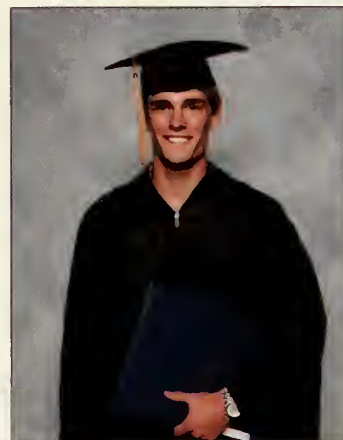
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Theological Studies



Streat, Ashley  
Political Science



Studstill, Jason  
Management



Swanquist, Quinn  
Accounting



Swartz, Allison  
Management



Sweatman, Lorri  
Interior Design



Swift, Lindsay  
JMC



Symons, Michael  
International Relations



Terry, Sara  
English/Language Arts



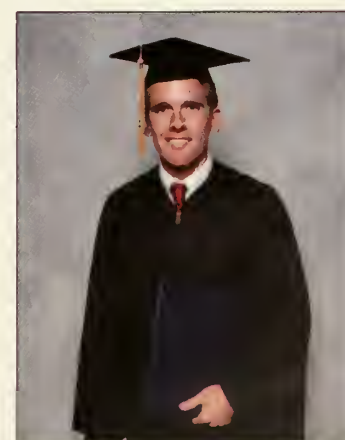
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Language Arts



Thomas, Christopher  
Religion



Thomas, Heather  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Thomas, Jason  
Management





Thompson, Jilliane  
Nursing



Thompson, Lamie Beth  
Communication Studies



Thornton, David  
Spanish



Tingle, Catherine  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Tipps, Heath  
Management



Tirgrath, Lauren  
Family Studies



Toole, Melinda  
EC/ E/SE/ C



Towne, Emily  
Psychology



Truesdale, Adam  
Music Education



Turner, Cory  
Management



Tyus, Jamelle  
Nursing



Underwood, Janelle  
Family Studies



Upton, Meredith  
English



Vanderwall, Alexander  
Management



Vaughn, Ann Claire  
JMC



Vaughn, Jennifer  
Psychology





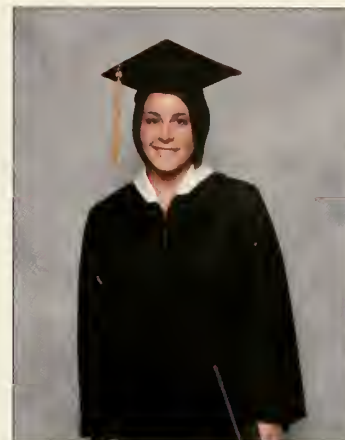
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Political Science



Veach, Katherine  
Religion



Vest, Paul  
Instrumental Music



Villarreal, Kelly  
Management



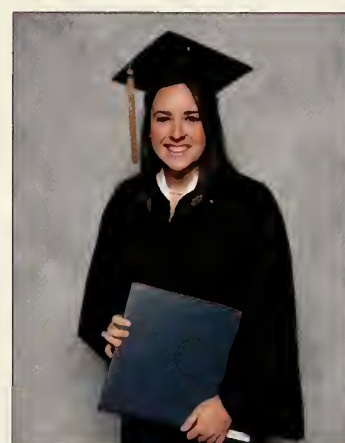
Voshall, Denise  
Spanish



Vournakis, Elena  
Management



Voyles, Kathryn  
Music



Waddle, Brooke  
History



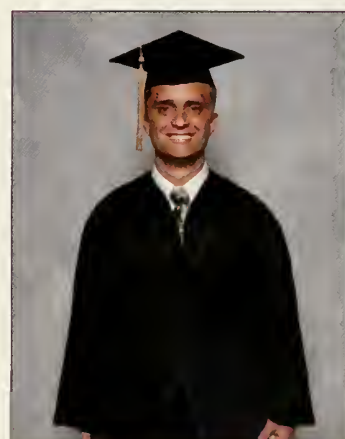
Wade, Leslie  
EC/E, SE/CT



Wade, Sarah  
Interior Design



Wagner, Marian  
History



Waits, Jack Andrew  
Accounting



walker, Dow  
Accounting



Wallace, Mary  
Nursing



Waller, Christina  
Nursing



Ward, Andrea  
Exercise Science



# senior survey

## If there is one thing you could change about Samford, what would it be?

- Those dang cracks on the sidewalk that I've tripped on so much, or how slippery some stairways and entrances become when wet.
- Different restaurants in the food court. We had Burger King and Taco Bell my freshman year.
- Take down the Beeson Woods entrance sign. I can't believe I haven't knocked it down myself.
- More parking!
- School spirit is pretty low.
- Recruit some of the male types to this "all girls school."
- Back off on visitation rules for the upperclassmen.
- More guys!

## What is one question about Samford you always find yourself asking but never have figured out the answer?

- Why we get VH1, Bravo and Spike but not E or HBO (Are they really any worse?)
- Why are there so many liberal professors at a conservative school? I mean, have you ever looked at the bumper stickers on the faculty cars?
- How Samford always looks so amazing?
- Why are all my classes in the same classroom?
- I never figured out what that smell is that arises from the caf. You know what I'm talking about.
- If no one at Samford dates, how come they're all engaged by the end of four years?
- How much do we pay to keep our grass painted green?

## How have you changed since freshman year?

- I think I'm finally realizing who I am, and I'm secure in that person. I've discovered the things I'm passionate about, and although I'm not sure what I'm doing after May 20th, I know I'm equipped for anything.
- The better question would be what has NOT changed.
- Is the sky blue?
- I've learned what it means to truly walk with God.
- I'm an alcohol-drinking, liberal minded DEMOCRAT.
- More confident and independent.

## In 20 years, what do you think you will miss most about Samford?

- The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi
- The closeness of the community and all the beautiful women
- My professors
- My crazy friends
- The beautiful, safe campus, and the fact that I'm surrounded by the most interesting, wonderful mix of people that I could have ever found anywhere.
- Getting to live and hang out with my best friends all the time
- The bubble. It's not the real world. That's kind of nice when you think about it. The real world is not nice.
- First, the people. Second, the quad.
- Individual moments in time, such as mud football on the quad after a heavy spring rain
- The community

## Describe your Samford experience in one word.

- Random
- Whirlwind
- Defenestration
- Classic
- Indescribable
- ReallyReallyRidiculouslyAmazing
- Southern
- IMADEITOUTINFOURYEARS
- Workaholic







Ward, Keith  
Management



Watson, Coker  
Accounting



Weast, Lynnora  
Chemistry



Weaver, Laura  
Management



Webster, Robert  
Computer Science



Whatley, Elizabeth  
Accounting



White, Jennifer Courtney  
Psychology



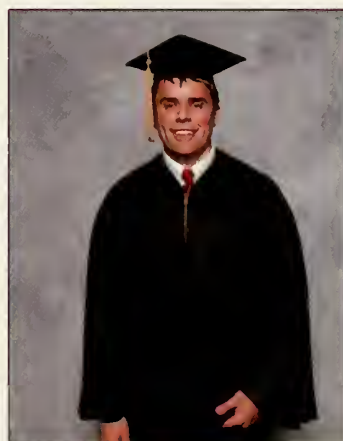
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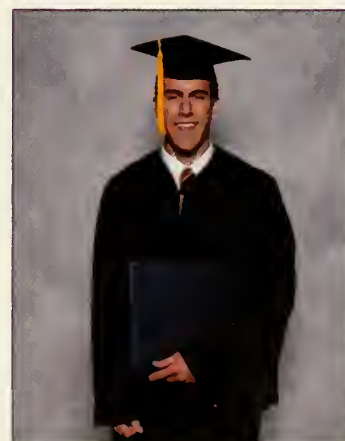
Whitworth, Sterling  
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Whorley, Rachele  
Psychology



Wiggins, Joshua  
Management



Wilkinson, David  
Communication Studies



Williams, Erin  
Family Studies



Williams, Joshua  
Engineering Physics



Williams, Kristen  
Nutrition and Dietetics



Williams, Laura  
History

# Samford University

## 2005-2006















